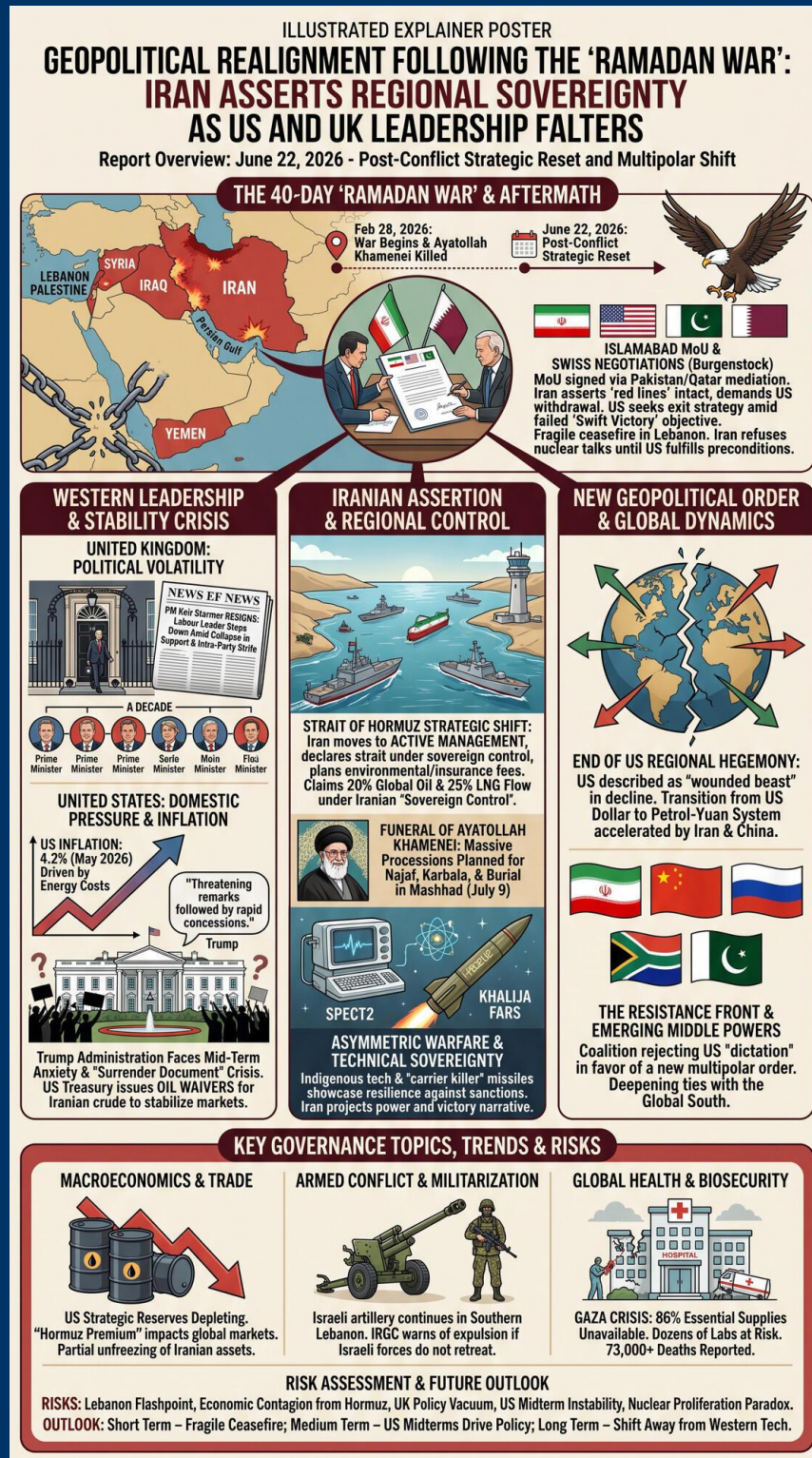


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

JUNE 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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GEOPOLITICAL REALIGNMENT FOLLOWING THE "RAMADAN WAR": IRAN ASSERTS REGIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AS US AND UK LEADERSHIP FALTERS

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global geopolitical landscape on June 22, 2026, is dominated by the aftermath of the 40-day "Ramadan War" (commenced February 28, 2026) between the United States/Israel and the Islamic Republic of Iran. A strategic reset is currently underway following the [signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\)](#), which facilitated a breakthrough through Pakistani and Qatari mediation. Iran has emerged from the conflict with its "red lines" intact, asserting management over the Strait of Hormuz and demanding the total withdrawal of US forces from its periphery. Simultaneously, the US administration faces severe domestic pressure from rising inflation and the failure of its "Swift victory" objective, leading to a desperate search for an exit strategy that preserves some semblance of regional influence.

Convergence is seen in the simultaneous collapse of political stability in the West and the consolidation of the "Resistance Front" in West Asia. In the United Kingdom, [Prime Minister Keir Starmer has resigned](#) following a collapse in public support and intra-party strife, while in the United States, President Trump is reportedly [threatening Iranian negotiators](#) even as his Treasury Department [issues oil waivers](#) to stabilize global energy markets. This vacuum in Western leadership is being actively filled by a coalition involving Iran, China, Russia, and emerging middle powers like South Africa and Pakistan, who are increasingly rejecting US "dictation" in favor of a new multipolar order.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Islamabad MoU and Swiss Negotiations:** High-level technical talks in Burgenstock, Switzerland, are focused on implementing the 14-point MoU. Iran refuses to discuss nuclear issues until the US fulfills [preconditions](#) regarding a permanent ceasefire in Lebanon and the unfreezing of assets.
- **UK Political Crisis:** Keir Starmer has [officially resigned](#) as leader of the Labour Party, citing the need for new leadership before the September parliamentary return.
- **Strait of Hormuz Strategic Shift:** Iran has moved from threatening to close the waterway to **actively managing it**, declaring the straight is under [Iranian management](#) and planning to collect environmental and insurance fees.

- **US Economic Vulnerability:** US inflation reached 4.2% in May, driven by energy costs, forcing the [issuance of oil waivers](#) for Iranian crude to prevent a "costly quickmire" for the Trump presidency.
- **Funeral of Ayatollah Khamenei:** Final details for the funeral of the "martyred leader" (killed Feb 28) have been released, with ceremonies in [Najaf and Karbala](#) preceding burial in Mashhad on July 9.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Technical teams in Switzerland have established a [high-level committee](#) for political oversight of the Islamabad MoU.
- Iran has rejected any "side deals" that decouple the Iranian front from the [Lebanese front](#).

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The US Treasury has issued a [60-day general license](#) for the production and sale of Iranian crude and petrochemicals.
- Iran claims that [20% of global oil flow](#) and 25% of LNG are now subject to Iranian "sovereign control" in the Strait of Hormuz.

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Israeli forces continue [artillery shelling](#) in southern Lebanon despite the "fragile ceasefire" mentioned in the MoU.
- The IRGC warns that if Israeli forces do not retreat from Lebanon, they will be [expelled in disgrace](#), referencing the defeat of 2000.

Global Health & Biosecurity

- Gaza's Health Ministry reports that [86% of essential supplies](#) are unavailable, leading to dozens of laboratories being at risk of shutting down.

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- The resignation of Keir Starmer underscores a [period of extraordinary volatility](#) in UK leadership, with six prime ministers in a decade.
- President Trump's leadership style is characterized by "threatening remarks" followed by [rapid concessions](#) in negotiations.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of US Regional Hegemony

- The narrative focuses on the ["strategic reset"](#) where Iran has transformed a defensive war into a geopolitical victory. Analysts suggest that the US "lost the battleground" and is now seeking a "less humiliating way to back out."
- The transition from the US dollar to a [petrol-yuan system](#) is being accelerated by Iran and China's coordinated use of geographic and financial leverage.

Asymmetric Warfare and Technical Sovereignty

- Iran is showcasing its [indigenous medical and military tech](#) (e.g., SPECT2 systems, hypersonic missiles) as proof that "inhuman sanctions" failed to stifle growth and instead forced system internalization.

- The use of ["carrier killer" ballistic missiles](#) (Khalija Fars) is highlighted as the "nuclear option" that forced the US to the negotiating table.

The Fragmentation of the West

- The transcripts portray the US and Israel as "conjoint twins" that are [difficult to separate](#), but show a "huge crack" at the policy level where US officials are beginning to see Israel as a "burden" rather than an asset.
- Germany is depicted as [losing international credibility](#) for its support of Israeli actions, losing its bid for a UN Security Council seat to Austria and Portugal.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Iran: Despite the loss of Ayatollah Khamenei and the "martyrdom" of military leaders, the state is framed as unified and emboldened. The public is seen [rallying around the flag](#), with spontaneous mourning for the leader lasting over 100 nights. Economic anxiety remains high due to sanctions, but is being redirected as anger toward "Western conspiracy."

United Kingdom: The resignation of Keir Starmer reflects a [crisis of mandate](#). Critics argue his 2024 victory was "landslide only on paper," and his authority was eroded by poor local election results and his inability to address the cost-of-living crisis.

United States: The Trump administration is portrayed as facing a ["surrender document"](#) crisis. Mid-term election anxiety is high, with the electorate increasingly skeptical of "stupid wars" that drive up gas prices and grocery costs. Internal divisions are widening, with

reports of [Trump lashing out](#) at Netanyahu in private calls.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The world is framed as a **fracturing multipolar arena** where the US is a "wounded beast" in decline. Iran is projecting power by managing international shipping and forging deep ties with the [Global South](#), specifically South Africa and Pakistan. The framing of the "Zionist regime" is as a "cancerous tumor" that has failed to achieve any military objectives in Lebanon or Gaza, despite Western support. Regional deterrents are described as "firmly in place," with the network of alliances from [Tehran to the Mediterranean](#) (Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine) becoming the dominant regional force.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is characterized by a "weaponization of economic interdependence." Global markets are rallying on hopes of an end to the war, but remain fragile due to the "Hormuz premium" and the threat of re-closing the strait.

- **Inflation:** US CPI hit [4.2% in May](#), causing serious consumer hardship.
- **Commodities:** Brent oil prices are a major concern; US strategic reserves are reportedly [four weeks from depletion](#).
- **Assets:** Partial unfreezing of billions of dollars in Iranian assets is [underway](#) via Qatar.
- **Technology Costs:** Iranian domestic medical tech (SPECT2) is priced at [€100,000 less](#) than Western alternatives, signaling a shift in supply chain reliance.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

- **Keir Starmer (UK):** Resigned as PM and Labour leader. [Status: Loser](#). Position became untenable due to lack of public support and drifting leadership.
- **Andy Burnham (UK):** Mentioned as a potential [successor](#) who wants to "fix many the problems." **Status: Rising.**
- **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (Iran):** Deceased (February 28, 2026). [Status: Martyr/Icon. His death triggered the current conflict and subsequent national resolve.](#)
- **Donald Trump (US):** Facing mid-term challenges and a ["quackmire" in the Middle East](#). **Status: Vulnerable.**

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Press TV's lead stories for June 22, 2026, focus exclusively on Iranian "victory" narratives: the Islamabad MoU, the active management of the Strait of Hormuz, and the "genocide" in Gaza/Lebanon. The emotional tone is highly nationalistic, triumphant, and fiercely anti-Western. Starmer's resignation is framed as a symptom of broader Western decay. Buried or minimized stories include any internal Iranian dissent or the specifics of the casualties Iran suffered during the 40-day war, which are instead generalized as "immense sacrifices." Conspicuous Omissions include any detailed Israeli or US perspective on the "Ramadan War" or the legality of Iran's new Hormuz "toll" system under international law.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The subtext of the stories centers on the moral and military superiority of the

"Resistance Front" against an inept and corrupt Western bloc.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran:** Strong, principled, and triumphant. "Iran walked away with [every single redline intact](#)."
- **United States:** Weak, chaotic, and "dishonest." Framed as a ["wounded beast"](#) in decline.
- **Israel:** An "illegitimate state" and "madman" regime. "None the objectives of... his [wars have been achieved](#)."
- **Germany:** A "hypocritical" secondary power losing [international credibility](#).

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Chaotic and "mean-spirited." A "comedian for president" who ["doesn't know his forearm from his elbow"](#).
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** A "madman" who ["needs warfare to stay in office" and is facing electoral defeat and prison](#).
- **J.D. Vance:** Arrogant and "insolent," threatening Iranian leaders while [admitting to progress](#) in private.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** Extensive use of the term "Ramadan War" to frame the conflict in religious and historical terms. [The deal](#) is framed as a "surrender document" from Trump to Iran.
- **Disinformation Segment ("Expose"):** Dedicated segments attempt to debunk Western media "fake news" regarding [Gaza casualties](#) and Israeli military "cracks."

- **Censorship Allegations:** Claims that Western platforms are blocking accounts for "pro-Palestine" comments to [stop the truth](#).
- **Ground Truth Delta:** While Iran claims total control of Hormuz, global shipping data shows [only 100 ships passed](#) through since March, compared to a baseline of 100+ per day, indicating the strait remains heavily contested or restricted despite "victory" claims.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Hypotheses

- The 60-day implementation period for the MoU is likely a stalling tactic by both sides; the US to refill energy reserves and Iran to consolidate regional gains. [Results within 30 days](#) are unlikely.
- Israel will likely **escalate unilaterally** in Lebanon to sabotage the Iran-US deal, as its core interests are not represented in the Swiss talks. [Nitin Jahu](#) will play the "spoiler."

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- **Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Continued "fragile" ceasefire in Lebanon with frequent artillery violations. High-profile funerals for Khamenei will serve as a [show of force](#) for the Resistance Front.
- **Medium Term (1-6 Months):** US midterm elections will be the primary driver of US foreign policy. If gas prices do not fall, Trump may face a massive [electoral defeat](#).

- **Long Term (1-5 Years):** Structural shift away from Western medical and military technology in the Middle East. Iran's [parallel system](#) becomes the regional standard.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current stability relies on a "balance of power" that is highly sensitive to external shocks and leadership changes.

- **Lebanon Flashpoint:** Persistent Israeli strikes could trigger Iranian [retaliatory measures](#) and a collapse of the Swiss talks. Trigger: A major Israeli strike on Beirut (Dahiya). Likelihood: High. Impact: Immediate return to regional war. Mitigation: UN Security Council resolution enforcing withdrawal.
- **Economic Contagion:** Re-closure of the Strait of Hormuz could cause a [global economic collapse](#). Trigger: US failure to unfreeze assets within 60 days. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Global recession. Mitigation: Successful Qatari/Pakistani asset transfer.
- **UK Policy Vacuum:** Starmer's resignation leaves the UK without a strong voice in [international diplomacy](#). Trigger: Failure to appoint an interim leader. Likelihood: Low. Impact: Reduced NATO cohesion. Mitigation: Rapid Labour leadership contest.
- **US Midterm Instability:** Domestic unrest in the US over [inflation and "surrender"](#) could lead to erratic foreign policy. Trigger: Protests at US factories or countryside. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Policy reversal. Mitigation: Effective price controls/energy relief.

- **Nuclear Proliferation Paradox:** Iran suggests that "only nuclear weapons" give [true security](#) against Israel. Trigger: Continued Israeli nuclear-armed status without Iranian containment. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Global nuclear race. Mitigation: Finalizing the "Final Agreement" within 60 days.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts do not explain **how** Iran plans to manage the Strait of Hormuz without sparking a direct military conflict with Western navies that still maintain "freedom of navigation" claims.
- There is no mention of the **domestic economic state of Russia** or **China**, despite their roles as key mediators and power brokers.
- The extent of **Iranian military losses** in the 40-day war is omitted, preventing an objective assessment of Iran's actual "victory."
- Missing context on the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**'s actual verification of Iranian claims that "no new nuclear commitments" were made.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Stalling Tactic" Scenario:** The US MoU is not a surrender but a **strategic delay** to allow US military assets to reposition and to wait for the Iranian government to face succession crises following Khamenei's death. The Swiss talks are a "kabuki theater" to manage [public perception](#) while preparing for a second phase of conflict.

- **The "Economic Mirage" Scenario:** Iran's domestic tech "SPECT2" and hypersonic missiles are **prototypes** being oversold to mask the total exhaustion of the Iranian industrial base after 40 days of saturation bombing.
- **Black Swan Event:** The **kidnapping of the Cuban President** by US forces, as reportedly [considered by Pete Hegseth](#), triggering a sudden hemispheric war in Latin America that forces the US to completely abandon West Asia to Iran/Russia.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Immediate focus must be on the "Lebanon Deconfliction Mechanism" to [prevent escalation](#) that could derail the broader MoU.
- **Economic:** Diversification of energy routes to bypass Hormuz is [not feasible](#) in the short term; diplomatic engagement with Iran and Oman is the only viable path for supply chain security.
- **Diplomatic:** Recognize the emergence of a "Middle Power" mediation bloc (Pakistan/Qatar/South Africa) as [more effective](#) than direct US-Iran engagement.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Expect **higher shipping costs** in the Persian Gulf as Iran begins charging "environmental and insurance fees" [post-60-day period](#).

- **Capital Allocation:** Shift investment toward [regional AI computation clusters](#) (UAE/Saudi) and away from Western-centric tech that is vulnerable to geopolitical sanctions.
- **Compliance:** Monitor the "60-day oil waiver" closely; it is the [only window](#) for certain transactions before potential policy reversals.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is currently centered on technical MoU implementation and the reaction to UK/US political volatility. The "commitment for commitment" [criteria](#) serves as the underlying legal principle for current negotiations.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**
 - **Islamabad MoU Article 13:** Focuses on the [fulfillment of Iranian conditions](#) as a prerequisite for nuclear file discussion.
 - **1943 Venezuela Energy Law:** Being [dismantled](#) under current "interventions," marking a shift in Latin American resource management.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**
 - **Starmer Resignation Speech:** Announced outside [Downing Street](#); set a timetable for Labour leadership nominations starting July 9.
 - **Trump "Lawn" Interview:** Where the US President dismissed [inflation concerns](#) and claimed secret seizure of Iranian oil.
 - **Burgenstock Joint Statement:** Issued by [Pakistan and Qatar](#), detailing the creation of a deconfliction cell.

KEY STORIES

- **Islamabad MoU Signing:** Iran and the US sign a memorandum to end the 40-day war, with Pakistan and Qatar mediating. Terms include troop pullbacks and sanction waivers.
- **Keir Starmer Resignation:** UK PM resigns as Labour leader due to political volatility and failure to address domestic crises.
- **Strait of Hormuz Management:** Iran and Oman plan joint management of the straight, planning to charge fees for commercial passage after a 60-day grace period.
- **US Oil Waivers:** Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent issues a 60-day general license for Iranian crude to stabilize US energy prices.
- **Gaza Medical Crisis:** 73,000+ deaths reported; severe shortages of diagnostic materials (86% out of stock) threaten thousands of patients.
- **Khamenei Funeral Details:** Processions announced for Baghdad, Najaf, and Karbala for the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.
- **Colombian Election Tension:** Progressive Ivan Cepeda faces far-right candidate Abelardo la Espriella amid claims of US interference and "soft coups."
- **South Africa-Iran Ties:** Deputy FM Said Khatib Zade welcomed in Pretoria as a partner against "Western dictation."
- **Nuclear Dilemma:** Iranian analysts argue that only nuclear weapons provide security against a "nuclear-armed Israel" that refuses to withdraw from Lebanon.
- **Staging of Carrier Killers:** Iran highlights its Khalija Fars missiles and simulated attacks on mock US carriers as the reason for the US return to diplomacy.

- **Jordanian Repression:** Reports of "squashed" protests and arrests at the Israeli and US embassies in Amman.
- **Lebanon Deconfliction Mechanism:** A new cell established in Switzerland to oversee the ceasefire and prevent further Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon.
- **Venezuela "Colonial" Shift:** Critics claim Maduro's "kidnapping" has turned Venezuela into a Western colony, dismantling Chavez-era energy laws.
- **Rick Sanchez "Unscripted":** Former CNN anchor critiques US media "elites" and dictatorial systems, cheering for Iran as the "little guy" fighting back.
- **SPECT2 Indigenous Tech:** Iran deploys domestic cardiac imaging systems in hospitals, bypassing sanctions and saving €100,000 per unit.

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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