

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Houthi ballistic missiles intercepted over Saudi Arabia

- Six ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis at Saudi Arabia were intercepted by the Saudi-led coalition, which said the attacks targeted the southern province of Taif and the Yanbu area on the Red Sea. — [Reuters](#)
- Brent and WTI jumped about 5% at their session highs on the attack before easing after reports that the United States and Iran discussed reopening the Strait of Hormuz. — [Reuters](#)
- The wire describes the wider U.S.-Israeli war against Iran as 'largely stalemated for months on the battlefield'; no damage was reported from the interceptions. — [Reuters](#)

UAE cuts Bank Melli Iran out of its financial system

- The UAE Central Bank prohibited Bank Melli Iran from 'conducting any financial transactions to and from Iran,' acting after the U.S. Treasury called for all of the bank's foreign branches to be closed. — [WSJ](#)
- The stated enforcement basis was money-laundering, terrorist-financing and proliferation-financing violations; the bank operates seven to eight branches across the emirates, with its main office in Dubai. — [WSJ](#)
- The UAE had already suspended trade and financial relations with Iran on August 18; the emirates are a major gateway for Iranian goods and finance. — [WSJ](#)
- The move fits a widening U.S. secondary-sanctions push: Washington has announced an extension of financial sanctions targeting third-country companies that do business with Iranian firms. — [Reuters](#)

Araghchi faces impeachment push in Tehran

- Iranian media report that an impeachment motion against Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was formally submitted in parliament on Thursday over his September 22 meeting with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in New York. No vetted international outlet has confirmed this yet — treat as reported, not verified. — [Livemint](#)
- The reported sponsors' names are inconsistent across reports — Ali Khezrian and Amirhossein Sabeti in one account, Ebrahim Rezaei in the morning's research — so the motion's details should be treated as unconfirmed. — [Livemint](#)
- IRGC-affiliated Tasnim called the Witkoff contact 'a major mistake' contrary to national interests and said Araghchi should be held accountable; one MP said the talks fell 'outside the framework of the Islamic Republic's policies.' — [Livemint](#)

Pezeshkian: it's up to America to end the war

- President Masoud Pezeshkian told Fox News' Bret Baier in an interview aired Thursday: 'But we do not wish to continue. It's America that must choose whether it wants to end this or not.' — [Reuters](#)

- The interview followed Donald Trump's Tuesday threat to 'annihilate' Iran, after which he suggested a deal could come soon. — [Reuters](#)
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio cautioned Wednesday that a deal would require 'hard work over a period of time' and that military options remain. — [Reuters](#)

Seized Iranian oil sails toward the U.S.

- Three U.S.-seized tankers carrying nearly six million barrels of Iranian crude — worth roughly \$600 million — are crossing the Atlantic toward the United States, per ship-tracking data from @TankerTrackers cited in an AFP report. — [AFP](#)
- The Majestic X and Tifani, seized by the U.S. in April after loading oil in Iran, were off Brazil's northern coast on Thursday; the supertanker Lenore, seized in early June in the Indian Ocean, entered the Atlantic on Tuesday. — [AFP](#)
- Neither vessel shows a destination on its transponder, and Washington has not announced what will happen to the oil on arrival. — [AFP](#)

Diesel curbs: no ban on the table

- No U.S. diesel export ban or curbs are in effect: Energy Secretary Chris Wright said a ban 'would not work,' favors voluntary measures, and said 'nobody is considering a flat ban'; no decisions have been made, with policy announcements expected 'in coming days.' — [Reuters](#)
- The White House denied Politico's report of a 90-day ban as 'fake news'; Bloomberg had reported Wright told oil-industry leaders late Tuesday to brace for possible curbs. — [Reuters](#)
- Average U.S. diesel is \$6.52/gal, up 76% from a year ago; diesel futures fell about 5% Wednesday on the denial, while European refining margins hit record highs after Trump's comments. — [Reuters](#)

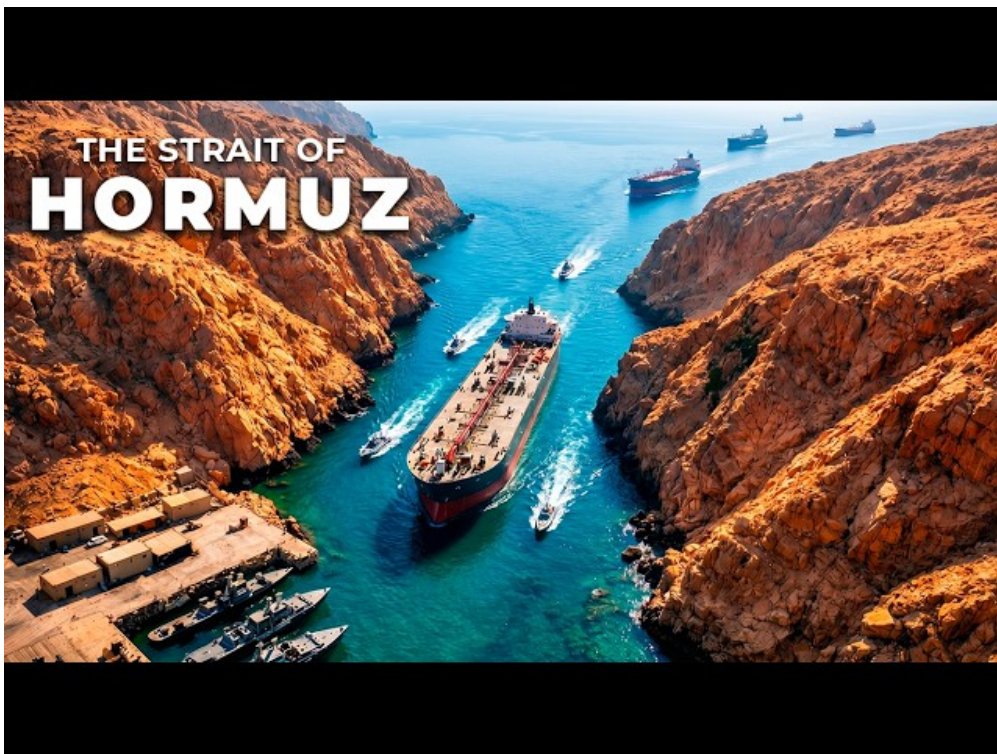
Markets

- Brent settled at \$106.60/bbl on Sept 24, up \$3.52 (+3.4%) — its highest close since Sept 15. (Reuters wire reporting, via syndicated copy.) — [Reuters](#)
- WTI settled at \$94.61/bbl, up \$2.45 (+2.7%) — its first rise in days after falling 13% over the prior six sessions. (Reuters wire reporting, via syndicated copy.) — [Reuters](#)

Related media



File photo: President Masoud Pezeshkian addressing the UN General Assembly. — [view original](#)



File image: the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most fragile energy corridor. — [view original](#)

- [Pezeshkian's UNGA address: Iran 'will never bow,' U.S. delegate walks out.](#)
- [Araghchi faces hard-liner backlash over the Witkoff contact.](#)