

US-Iran Briefing — Evening Edition, September 25

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Trump warns Xi over Chinese aid to Iran

- At the White House summit, President Trump told Xi Jinping that any direct or indirect Chinese help for Iran — intelligence, parts, military equipment — was "totally unacceptable," according to U.S. Ambassador to China David Perdue, speaking on CNBC Friday. Perdue said Beijing gave assurances Thursday it is not aiding Tehran. — [Reuters](#)
- Trump confirmed to reporters Friday that the two leaders discussed the Iran war. China's Xinhua said Xi urged both sides to return to the June framework and resume negotiations. — [Reuters](#)
- **CONTESTED** outcome: a senior Iranian official told Reuters Friday that Chinese officials assured Iran China will NOT limit its economic, political or military ties with Tehran. The U.S. and Iranian versions of what Beijing promised cannot both be true — lead with the less escalatory reading (Beijing's assurances to Washington) and treat the outcome as contested. — [Reuters](#)

Trump rejects Iran's seven-day ceasefire proposal

- President Trump has rejected Iran's seven-day ceasefire proposal — which offered reopening the Strait of Hormuz and resuming nuclear talks in exchange for lifting the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports — telling aides he is skeptical Tehran will meet his demands, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday. — [WSJ](#)
- Trump expects the U.S. to resume bombing Iran after the November midterms, though officials note he is reluctant to restart major combat operations, partly to preserve dwindling munitions — and his position could shift. — [WSJ](#)

Iraq grounds all Iranian flights

- Erbil and Sulaimaniya airports suspended Iranian flights starting Friday; Najaf International Airport halted all Iran flights effective 02:00 Friday until further notice, according to state media. Baghdad had been ordered shut from Wednesday. — [Reuters](#)
- Flights to and from Iran are now suspended at all four Iraqi airports that operated them. The move follows the U.S. Treasury warning that any firm servicing Iranian carriers faces sanctions and dollar-system exclusion — and comes a day after the UAE suspended all Iranian-airline flights. — [Reuters](#)

Araghchi details seven-day Hormuz plan; Tehran rules out nuclear concessions

- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi publicly detailed Iran's seven-day plan outside the UN Security Council on Friday: "The seven-day timeline will start as soon as the United States accepts this plan" — initial steps take four to five days, the Strait of Hormuz opens on day six, and direct nuclear talks with the U.S. begin on day seven. — [Reuters](#)
- The plan, conveyed to Washington via Qatari mediators, requires the U.S. to lift its naval blockade of Iranian ports, waive oil sanctions, release frozen funds, and observe a ceasefire including Lebanon.

The White House said Friday its officials are having "positive and constructive discussions through the mediators." Pezeshkian hosted Qatar's prime minister early Friday. — [Reuters](#)

- Hard limit: a senior Iranian official told Reuters Friday that even if Washington accepts the plan, Iran will offer NO nuclear concessions — no giving up enrichment rights, no shipping highly enriched uranium out of the country. — [Reuters](#)

Houthis claim Riyadh and Yanbu strikes; Saudis intercept six missiles; France deploys to Yanbu

- Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said Thursday they launched missile and drone attacks on a "sensitive target" in the Saudi capital Riyadh and on Saudi Aramco facilities in the Red Sea city of Yanbu. There is no Saudi confirmation of an attack on Riyadh or of damage or casualties — treat as a Houthi claim, not a confirmed strike. — [Reuters](#)
- Saudi Arabia said it intercepted six ballistic missiles fired by the Houthis toward the southern province of Taif and the Yanbu area on the Red Sea. Precision note: the Saudi statement places the intercepted missiles at Taif and Yanbu — not Riyadh; do not conflate with the Houthi Riyadh claim. — [Reuters](#)
- France will send soldiers, radar platforms and air-defense systems to protect the Yanbu oil terminal, President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday — strictly defensive, not joining the fight. No timetable disclosed. — [WSJ](#)
- Macron called a possible U.S. ban on diesel exports "catastrophic," both globally and for the U.S. economy — a rare direct French intervention in the American sanctions debate. — [WSJ](#)

Rezaei threatens neighboring airports; Pezeshkian says U.S. must choose

- If neighbouring countries cooperate with the United States by stopping Iranian flights, Iran will ensure their airports cannot function, Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in an interview with state TV Wednesday. Conditional threat only — no mechanism specified, no deadline in the Reuters reporting. — [Reuters](#)
- Pezeshkian, in an interview aired Thursday on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier," said it is up to the United States to choose when the war ends: "But we do not wish to continue. It's America that must choose whether it wants to end this or not." — [Reuters](#)

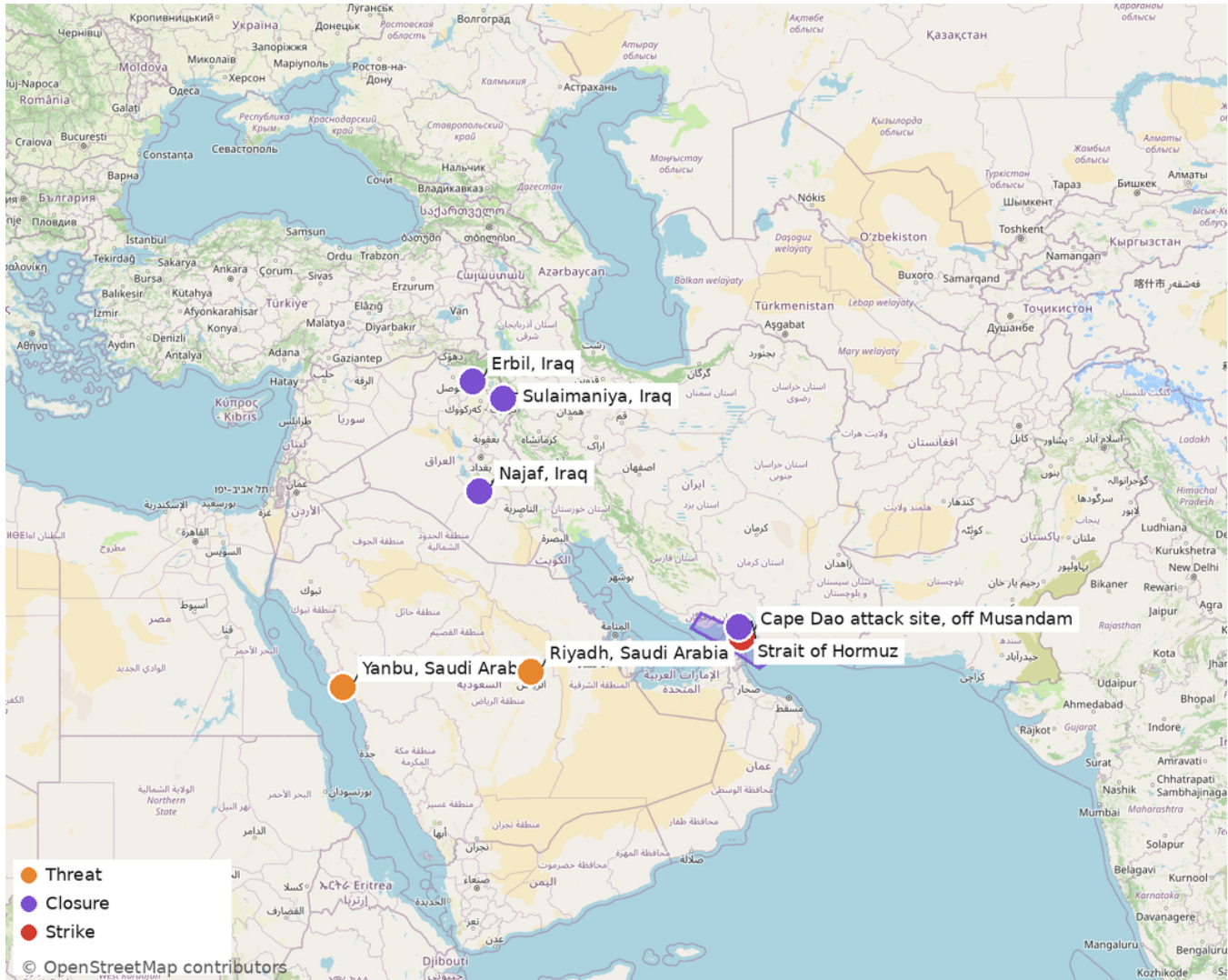
Cape Dao: one Indian national killed; 27 crew evacuated

- One Indian national was killed in an attack on the bulk carrier MV Cape Dao while the vessel was heading towards India, the Indian embassy in Oman said Wednesday. — [Reuters](#)
- A total of 27 crew members were evacuated. The Reuters reporting names no victim, gives no cause of death, and attributes responsibility to no party. — [Reuters](#)

Markets

- Brent settled at \$104.32/bbl on Sept 25, down 2.1% on the day. — [WSJ](#)
- WTI settled at \$92.41/bbl on Sept 25, down 2.3% on the day. — [WSJ](#)

Conflict map



Markers show reported strike sites, bases, and shipping areas. Purple polygons mark approximate or announced closure / exclusion zones.

Related media

■ [CNN International: Iran offers new proposal to restart U.S. talks and reopen Hormuz](#)

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