

US-Iran Conflict Briefing

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Missiles hit Aden airport as the coalition intercepts a ballistic missile bound for Yanbu

- Two missiles landed on the grounds of Aden International Airport in southern Yemen on Friday, October 16, with no casualties reported, Reuters reported. The Aden Security Department blamed the Iran-aligned Houthi group, said it was the second attack on the facility in less than a week, and said a Yemenia Airways flight bound for Cairo was preparing for takeoff when the missiles landed. The Houthis did not immediately claim responsibility. — [Reuters](#)
- The Saudi-led military coalition said on Friday that it intercepted a ballistic missile headed for Yanbu, Saudi Arabia's Red Sea oil-export hub that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz, and also destroyed two cruise missiles over the Red Sea and three drones in Saudi Arabia's Southern and Riyadh regions, Reuters reported. The coalition did not identify those behind the attacks, and Saudi Civil Defense had earlier issued alerts in Jazan and Khamis Mushait. — [Reuters](#)
- The airport strike came a day after the October 15 Houthi missile strike on the Aden presidential palace, for which Yemen's Health Ministry raised the death toll to 38 dead and 110 injured, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)
- Brent crude briefly touched 110 dollars a barrel on Friday for the first time since May amid the escalation, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Trump says the United States may have to strike Pickaxe Mountain

- President Donald Trump said in a Newsmax interview on Thursday night that the United States may have to strike Pickaxe Mountain, a fortified site linked to Iran's nuclear program, Reuters reported on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- Trump said he would not use a nuclear weapon against the site and was not considering United States ground troops in Iran, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Supertanker rates fall from record highs as Washington eases shadow-fleet sanctions

- Very large crude carrier freight rates for oil shipments from the Gulf of Oman to China fell to about 776 on the Worldscale basis, down from a record 841 the previous week, Reuters reported on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- Demand eased following fresh attacks on vessels in the Middle East, and the Trump administration is considering easing sanctions on shadow-fleet tankers, Reuters reported. — [Reuters](#)

Fairford investigation: watch raised to high over the suspected Iran-linked plot reporting

- British counter-terrorism police arrested a 22-year-old British man in Westminster on suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts, the seventh arrest in the investigation into the suspected plot against RAF Fairford, The Times reported. — [The Times](#)

- Reporting on the case has described a suspected plan, attributed to a branch of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, to recruit British citizens for a drone-swarm attack on the airbase, The Times reported. — [The Times](#)
- Iran has denied any involvement in the Fairford incident, and the men arrested were released on police bail while the investigation continues. — [The Times](#)

Markets

- Brent crude was at \$109.69 a barrel on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI crude was at \$99.04 a barrel on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- The U.S. average diesel price was \$6.179 a gallon in the EIA weekly figure for the week reported on October 12. — [Reuters](#)
- The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield was at 5.10 percent on October 16. — [Reuters](#)
- Very large crude carrier rates from the Gulf of Oman to China eased to about 776 Worldscale, down from a record 841 the previous week. — [Reuters](#)

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