# US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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## Trump Calls New Iran Strikes 'Highly Unlikely' as Rubio Says Talks Are Stalling

- President Donald Trump told CNN in a 20-minute phone interview on Sunday, November 8 that it is 'highly unlikely' he will need to order the United States back to war with Iran as long as there is progress in negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, repeating the assertion five times and conditioning it on Iran signing 'a very strong agreement.' — CNN
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaking on Sunday before leaving for the G7 foreign ministers meeting in Paris, pushed back on the optimism: 'I wouldn't say we're on the verge of a breakthrough,' he said, adding that talks 'hasn't been very productive because the Iranian demands are simply not just unacceptable, but in some cases outrageous.' — CNN
- Qatar on Saturday, November 7 denied reports that the United States and Iran had failed to reach a deal, with the Qatari prime minister affirming both sides were continuing to work toward an agreement. — Reuters
- Iran has submitted a nuclear proposal to Washington through Qatar, according to a senior Iranian official, but discussions depend on Washington first meeting Tehran's seven demands, including sanctions relief, access to frozen assets and war reparations, while Washington insists nuclear issues feature in the initial talks. — Reuters
- Diplomatic activity has increased since the midterms: Trump called Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Friday to discuss de-escalation, and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke on Thursday with counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey, Cyprus and Qatar. — CNN
- In the same CNN interview, Trump said three US aircraft carriers are now in the region, 'fully locked and loaded,' and that the United States has identified 38 bridges and power plants in Iran it could knock down 'in literally one hour' if strikes resume, though he said he would prefer not to; he also claimed Iran retains about 10 percent of its missile capacity and 15 percent of its drone capability, figures no independent source has verified. — CNN
- The US military has begun offering a reward of up to $20 million for information on Iran's nuclear program. — CNN

## Drone Attack Halts Production at Iraq's Khor Mor Gas Field

- Production was halted at Iraq's Khor Mor gas field, one of the largest in the Kurdistan region, after a drone attack targeted the field on Sunday, November 8, two security sources told Reuters; the field is operated by the Pearl Petroleum consortium, which includes UAE-based Dana Gas and Crescent Petroleum. — Reuters
- A single drone hit an LPG storage tank at the field near Chamchamal at about 11 p.m. local time, setting it alight; smoke was seen rising from the field and all crew were ordered into shelters for fear of further attacks. — Reuters
- The shutdown cut gas supplies to five power stations serving Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Bazian, Chamchamal and Duhok and will cut Kurdistan electricity generation by 2,500 to 2,800 megawatts, about two-thirds of the region's normal supply, according to the Kurdistan Region's electricity ministry;

hydro plants and alternative-fuel stations were being activated to protect hospitals and water stations. — Reuters

- Iraq's Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said an initial assessment found no casualties from the attack and ordered a joint investigation with Kurdistan Region authorities; the Kurdish natural resources and electricity ministries called it a 'terrorist attack,' and no group has claimed responsibility. — Reuters
- The Khor Mor field has been repeatedly hit by rocket and drone attacks in recent years, including a November 2025 attack that also halted production and an April 2024 drone strike that killed four Yemeni workers. — Reuters

## Saudi Air Defences Engage Over Riyadh and the Eastern Province

- Saudi Arabia's energy ministry said an administrative building belonging to Saudi Aramco in Riyadh was damaged by falling debris after an attempted attack on Sunday, November 8, with no injuries or fatalities reported. — Reuters
- Saudi civil defence lifted alerts in Dhahran, Dammam, Abqaiq and Al-Ahsa in the Eastern Province on Sunday, shortly after which the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis towards the Eastern region. — Reuters

## Iran Says Tankers Hit Mines in Hormuz; Claims Unconfirmed

- Iran's Revolutionary Guards Navy said two oil tankers caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to pass through an 'unauthorized route' in the Strait of Hormuz, and a third tanker also suffered an explosion and caught fire; Reuters was not able to confirm any of the reported strikes, and no independent source has verified the mine claims. — Reuters
- The UK Maritime Trade Operations centre said a bulk carrier and military forces were involved in an incident in the Gulf of Oman approximately 18 nautical miles east of Khor Fakkan, UAE, with damage unknown; it was unclear whether it was related to the reported US attack on a cargo vessel a day earlier. — Reuters
- Iranian state television suggested that explosions heard on Saturday on Qeshm Island and in the port of Jask were related to Iranian military activity rather than US strikes. — Reuters

## Eisenkot Formally Receives the Mandate to Form Israel's Government

- President Isaac Herzog officially handed Gadi Eisenkot the mandate to form a government on Sunday, November 8 at a meeting at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, starting his 28-day clock, with a possible 14-day extension. — Reuters
- Eisenkot said: 'We are in a state of emergency, approaching a point of no return for the State of Israel. We must form a national emergency government,' and pledged to form a wide government quickly; Herzog cited the threat of attack from Iran, progress on Gaza peace, and negotiations with Lebanon among the challenges facing the next government. — Reuters
- Eisenkot's bloc holds 48 seats and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wider coalition 53, neither reaching the 61 needed; Netanyahu called for a unity government of all Zionist parties while ruling out a coalition with Arab parties, and if Eisenkot fails, Netanyahu is likely to get his own chance before new elections become possible. — Reuters

## Revolutionary Guards Say Iran's Missile Range Limit Is Lifted

- Revolutionary Guard spokesman General Hossein Mohebbi said at a Tehran news conference on Saturday, November 7 that Iran's self-imposed 2,000-kilometre limit on ballistic missile range 'has been lifted for us,' days after Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khomeini warned any threat would face a response without geographic limits; Iran is not known to have missiles that can go beyond 2,000 kilometres. — Associated Press

## Markets

- Brent crude fell 64 cents to settle at $97.67 a barrel on November 8 as oil prices eased at the open after President Trump said fresh attacks on Iran were highly unlikely. — Reuters
- US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 35 cents to $90.51 a barrel on November 8. — Reuters

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