US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Senate Rejects Resolution Curbing Trump's Iran War Powers

- The U.S. Senate voted 51 to 48 on Thursday, November 19, 2026, largely along party lines, to defeat a war powers resolution directing President Trump to end the war in Iran or obtain Congress' approval to continue it; the resolution had previously passed the House of Representatives, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Only three Republicans — Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Rand Paul of Kentucky — voted with Democrats in favour of the Senate war powers resolution, while one Democrat, John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, voted with Republicans against it, Reuters reported. — Reuters

West Presses Iran at IAEA Board Over Bombed Nuclear Sites

- The United States, Britain, France and Germany jointly pressed Iran at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2026 to let inspectors return to nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel in June 2025, accusing Tehran of stonewalling; the four said the Agency has lost continuity of knowledge for a year and a half regarding Iran's previously verified stockpile of high-enriched uranium, which remains unaccounted for, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi told the Board that the only inspections in the last quarter were at the undamaged Bushehr nuclear power plant, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Iran told IAEA member states on Wednesday that the root causes of the impossibility of normal safeguards implementation are U.S. and Israeli acts of aggression and continuing threats of renewed attacks, and cited a U.S. offer of up to $20 million for information on Iran's nuclear programme, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Trump, Xi and Putin Hold First Trilateral Meeting in Shenzhen

- President Trump, President Xi Jinping and President Putin held their first-ever trilateral meeting in Shenzhen on Thursday, November 19, 2026, on the sidelines of the APEC summit, lasting about 90 minutes, and discussed global flashpoints including the wars in Ukraine and Iran, nuclear weapons, trade and artificial intelligence, with no immediate breakthroughs, CNN reported. — CNN
- The trilateral joint statement reaffirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought and said the three countries will conduct a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, with no date established for follow-up talks, CNN reported. — CNN
- The Shenzhen joint declaration did not mention Iran, Ukraine, the Strait of Hormuz or any ceasefire or timetable, and covered UN reform, increased production and supply of refined petroleum products and stable energy flows, and ICC jurisdiction, The Times reported. — The Times

Trump Says U.S. Will See What Happens on Iran After January 1

- President Trump said in comments broadcast on Thursday, November 19, 2026 that the United States would see what happens in its conflict with Iran after January 1, without explaining the significance of that date, and said there were indications Iran was looking at biological or chemical weapons, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Iraq Strikes Compromise With Kataib Hezbollah

- Iraq has reached a compromise with the Iran-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah, under which government forces were expected to move into the group's stronghold of Jurf al-Sakhar on Friday and Kataib Hezbollah forces would move to other areas, three senior security officials familiar with the deal told Reuters. — Reuters
- Esmail Qaani, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, arrived in Baghdad late on Monday to help defuse tensions with Kataib Hezbollah, and participants described the outcome of the talks as positive in a statement issued on Thursday, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Riyadh Tower Strike Caused No Injuries, Saudis Say

- Saudi Civil Defense said the November 19 strike on the PIF Tower in Riyadh damaged several floors of the 80-storey building and caused no injuries, though neighbouring buildings also sustained damage, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- Yemen's Houthis said they targeted King Khalid International Airport and the Financial Center in Riyadh with a large number of cruise missiles, military spokesperson Yahya Saree said, Reuters reported; no immediate Saudi confirmation was available. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent crude was at $92.72 a barrel on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- United States West Texas Intermediate crude for January delivery was at $82.43 a barrel on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury note fell to 5.051 percent on Thursday, November 19, 2026, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal

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