

US-Iran Briefing — Morning Edition, September 26

2020-09-26 · Morning edition · issued 07:00 CDT

Trump rejects Iran's seven-day plan; post-midterm strikes on the table

- President Trump has rejected Iran's proposal for a seven-day ceasefire — which offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and resume nuclear talks in exchange for the United States lifting its blockade of Iranian ports — and told aides he expects to resume bombing Iran after the November midterms. The Journal cites U.S. officials; Trump is privately skeptical Iran will meet his demands and wants to preserve dwindling American munitions for other contingencies. — [WSJ](#)
- Reuters reported Friday that it could not independently confirm the Journal's account — treat the post-midterm bombing expectation as reported, not confirmed. — [Reuters](#)

Tehran awaits an official U.S. reply

- Iran was still awaiting an official American response on Saturday. Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, at the United Nations, said a deal would trigger a seven-day countdown to reopening the strait and a pause in fighting across the region: "If there is seriousness on the U.S. side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, everything is now prepared." The terms Araqchi described: hostilities end on all fronts including Lebanon; Washington lifts its blockade of Iranian ports, releases frozen funds, and waives oil sanctions; broader talks on "mutually agreed subjects" could follow. — [Reuters](#)
- A senior Iranian official told Reuters that Iran will make no nuclear concessions — no limits on enrichment, no shipment of highly enriched uranium out of the country — even if Washington accepts the Hormuz plan. — [Reuters](#)

Overnight intercepts over Saudi Arabia; Mecca-pact allies close ranks

- Early Saturday, the Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted two Houthi drones headed toward Riyadh and a ballistic missile toward Khamis Mushait; Saudi civil defense issued overnight alerts for Khamis Mushait and Abha. — [Reuters](#)
- On Friday, Turkish and Pakistani defense officials met in Riyadh under the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement to review security and intelligence cooperation; Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman said early Saturday he affirmed with Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir continued joint efforts to confront attacks on the kingdom. — [Reuters](#)
- Araqchi briefed Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan early Saturday on the Iran–Oman understanding on safe shipping routes in the strait. Separately, UNICEF warned Friday of a new humanitarian crisis in Yemen with rising acute malnutrition among children. — [Reuters](#)
- The Houthis said Thursday they had launched missile and drone attacks on a "sensitive target" in Riyadh and on Saudi Aramco facilities in Yanbu — a claim, with no Saudi confirmation of damage or casualties. Saudi Arabia said it intercepted six ballistic missiles fired toward the southern province of Taif and the Yanbu area. Precision note: the Saudi statement places the interceptions at Taif and Yanbu — not Riyadh. — [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. — [WSJ](#)

Trump warns Xi over Chinese aid to Iran

- U.S. Ambassador to China David Perdue said Friday that during Thursday's White House talks, Trump told Xi Jinping that any Chinese help to Iran — direct or indirect, intelligence, parts, or military equipment — is "totally unacceptable." Perdue said Beijing gave assurances and that Washington has "seen movement," with China having "pulled some things down." — [Reuters](#)
- Trump confirmed to reporters that the two leaders discussed Iran: "We did." There is no official Chinese readout confirming any assurance — Beijing's commitment remains unconfirmed. — [Reuters](#)

Air-travel pressure spreads; Hormuz traffic still moving

- Flights to and from Iran are suspended at all four Iraqi airports that handled them — Baghdad, Najaf, Erbil, and Sulaimaniya. Ali Mokhber, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, warned through the Nournews outlet that if Iran cannot have flights and airport services, "no one in the region can either." Markets in the United Arab Emirates dipped Friday on that threat. — [Reuters](#)
- Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in a state-TV interview Wednesday that if neighboring countries stop Iranian flights, Iran will ensure their airports cannot function — a conditional threat with no mechanism or deadline specified. — [Reuters](#)
- A U.S. official told Reuters that about sixty commercial vessels transited the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, carrying the highest daily volume of crude since early July. — [Reuters](#)

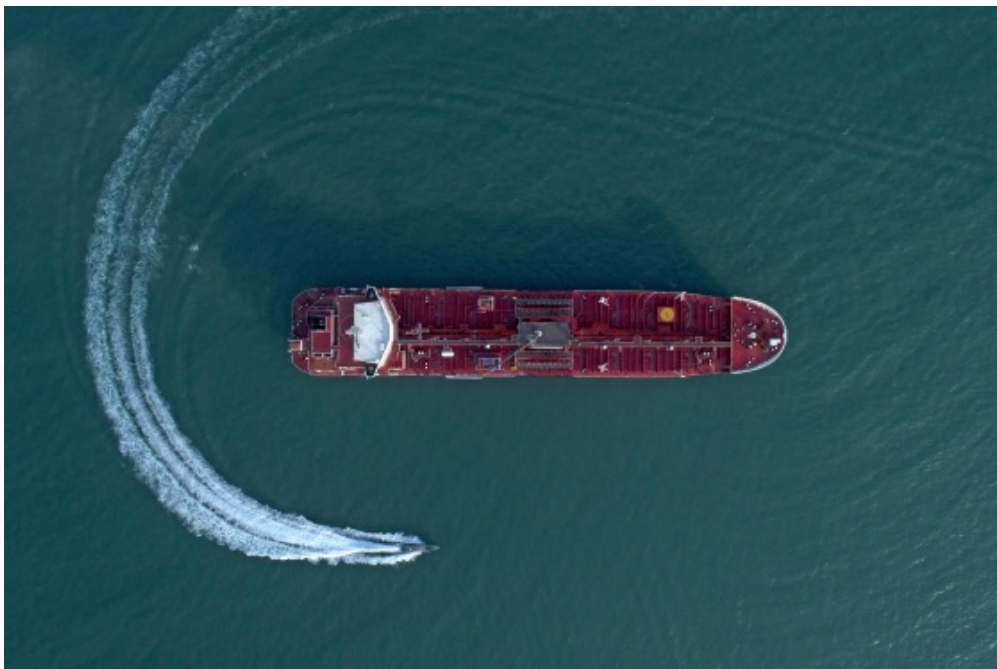
Recap: Cape Dao, and Pezeshkian's message

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

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File photo: a Patriot missile battery in Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted Houthi drones and missiles targeting Riyadh and Khamis Mushait on September 26. — [view original](#)



File photo: the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran says it could reopen within seven days under its proposed deal. — [view original](#)