

US-Iran Briefing — Morning Edition, October 12

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Riyadh airport fallout: empty skies into Monday

- Saturday's Houthi missile strike on King Khalid International Airport killed at least 13 people and wounded more than 300, after an injured Indian citizen died on Sunday; Sunday's second strike killed one Pakistani resident and injured 11 others, Saudi aviation authorities and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said. — [CNN](#)
- Skies over Riyadh were largely empty on Monday after the weekend's deadly Houthi strikes, with about 60 percent of scheduled flights expected to be cancelled, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. — [Reuters](#)
- The airport cancelled 99.7 percent of scheduled flights on Sunday, Cirium data showed; FlightRadar24 estimated about 78 percent of Monday's Riyadh flights cancelled, and more than a third of flights across the kingdom were not expected to operate. — [Reuters](#)
- The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration told American airlines on Sunday to exercise caution when flying to or over Saudi Arabia. — [Reuters](#)
- Lufthansa Group cancelled all flights to Riyadh until October 16, while Air France-KLM extended its suspension of services to and from the Saudi capital through the end of the month. — [Reuters](#)
- Saudi Arabia's benchmark stock index fell 0.6 percent in early Monday trade and Saudi Aramco dropped 0.3 percent, as Gulf investors held back after Sunday's second Houthi missile strike on the airport. — [Reuters](#)
- BP's chief executive will not attend the World Petroleum Council Energy Congress in Riyadh, a company spokesperson said Sunday; the Saudi energy ministry said the five-day conference would go ahead as scheduled at a convention center about 10 kilometers from the targeted airport. — [Reuters](#)

Mixed signals from Tehran on the Hormuz track

- Iran is still reviewing the U.S. response to its proposal for reopening the Strait of Hormuz and will reply to Washington via intermediaries once the review is over, foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said at a Monday press conference; he added that Tehran continues to exchange messages with the U.S. via intermediaries. — [Reuters](#)
- Security chief Mohsen Rezaei had said on October 11 that the U.S. response to Iran's seven conditions was 'insufficient,' that Iran is 'no longer in the process of responding to the Americans,' and that there would be no negotiations until the conditions are met — though he acknowledged Washington had accepted some of the seven conditions. — [Reuters](#)
- Taken together, the two officials' statements leave Tehran's posture contested: the foreign ministry describes a review that continues toward a reply, while the security chief described the process as stopped. — [Reuters](#)

Saudi-Iran backchannel opens as Syria joins the Yemen fight

- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan held a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on October 11 to discuss the regional escalation and de-escalation efforts — the first publicly reported contact between the two since Houthi attacks on the kingdom intensified. — [Reuters](#)
- Araghchi said Iran is ready to provide any assistance to facilitate dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, in a post on the minister's Telegram account after the call. — [Reuters](#)
- Baghaei reiterated at his Monday press conference that Iran would support any agreement reached by Yemenis and Saudis. — [Reuters](#)
- Syria has sent drone operators to the government-controlled port city of Aden, per The Times — a concrete new external military contribution to Saudi-backed operations against the Houthis, an escalation from the October 8 position that Syria was merely considering support. — [The Times \(London\)](#)

Markets

- Brent front-month futures traded near \$104.64 a barrel during Monday's Asian session, with Reuters describing choppy trading as tanker attacks and the Houthi escalation kept prices elevated. — [Reuters](#)
- WTI front-month futures traded near \$91.68 a barrel in the same session. — [Reuters](#)

Shipping

- Crude and petroleum product flows through the Strait of Hormuz averaged about 13.1 million barrels a day at the end of September — just under 80 percent of pre-war volumes — per Kpler data cited by CNN. — [CNN](#)

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