US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Reported Qeshm strike is now attributed to the United States as small-scale strikes

- Explosions were reported on Qeshm Island on Friday evening, November 6, 2026, after what a US official described as small-scale US strikes; the US has conducted several such strikes in recent weeks while cautioning they did not signal a return to full-scale combat operations, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- Over the past week the US carried out strikes on Iran's Qeshm Island, including on the night of November 6, and both sides have tried to play down the intensity of the strikes in an apparent attempt to preserve ongoing talks, CNN reported on November 7, 2026. — CNN
- Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said on Saturday, November 7, 2026 that initial reports indicated two missiles had struck Qeshm Island, adding there was no official information on possible damage, Reuters reported; no damage assessment or casualties have been reported in vetted reporting since. — Reuters

Qatar launches an 11th-hour push, with Iranian officials possibly returning to Doha today

- Qatari officials said on Friday, November 6, 2026 they had launched an 11th-hour attempt to stave off a new American operation and bridge the gaps between the US and Iran to open the Strait of Hormuz and lift the US blockade, with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani saying mediators were working 'as we speak' to avoid another wave of escalation, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- Iranian officials are set to return to Doha in the coming days, possibly as early as Saturday, November 7, 2026, to discuss a prospective deal, and the deal under discussion would shrink the timetable for preliminary talks from 60 days — the term of the June memorandum of understanding — to two days, moving almost immediately into nuclear negotiations, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- President Trump spoke with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Friday, November 6, 2026 about de-escalation, as Qatari officials worked to bridge US-Iran gaps, the Wall Street Journal reported, with CNN reporting Qatar said the call discussed de-escalation. — Wall Street Journal
- Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said the US administration remained willing to find a solution even after the midterm elections, signalling that Washington's interest in reaching an agreement had not changed, Reuters reported, citing Al Jazeera TV on Saturday, November 7, 2026. — Reuters
- Qatar's Prime Minister said significant progress had been made and expressed confidence that a settlement could be reached, saying: "We cannot wait to reach a perfect agreement; we hope to reach a good agreement," Reuters reported, citing Al Jazeera TV on Saturday, November 7, 2026. — Reuters

- Iran has been proposing its own seven-day plan since September, so far rejected by President Trump, calling for Washington to lift a blockade of Iranian ports, unfreeze assets and approve an Iranian-backed Hormuz route, Reuters reported on November 7, 2026. — Reuters

Trump's advisers are split on the post-midterm Iran decision

- Trump's advisers are split on the post-midterm Iran decision: Defense Secretary Hegseth and CENTCOM chief Admiral Brad Cooper have supported a return to major combat operations, Rubio and Bessent advocate tightening sanctions and continuing the blockade, Witkoff and Vance back diplomacy, and Netanyahu is still pushing for renewed strikes, US officials said, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- A regional official told CNN on Thursday, November 5, 2026 that the risk of renewed war with Iran has eased after the Republican Party's defeat in the US midterm elections, but escalation remains probable; Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke with counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey, Cyprus and Qatar as diplomatic activity increased, CNN reported. — CNN

Syria aids Saudi Arabia with advisers and studies entry into the Mecca pact

- Syria is aiding Saudi Arabia with military advice and training amid Houthi attacks and has sent a limited number of military personnel to the kingdom, two Syrian military sources and a senior US official said; the Syrian sources said scores of personnel had gone in recent weeks for advisory and training work, while a senior Syrian diplomat said any suggestion of military deployments at this stage is premature and that the November 4 Saudi-Syrian defence deal specifically includes advisory support, training and exchange of expertise, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Syria is studying entry into the Mecca pact: Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said discussions were under way to study Syria's entry, and a senior Syrian diplomat said the Saudi-Syrian agreement may evolve to include broader defence cooperation such as the Mecca pact, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent crude ended near flat at $98.32 a barrel on Friday, November 6, 2026, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- West Texas Intermediate crude settled up 0.3% at $90.83 a barrel on Friday, November 6, 2026, the Wall Street Journal reported. — Wall Street Journal
- The US 10-year Treasury yield was 4.86% on Friday, November 6, 2026, Reuters reported in its coverage of yields rising after a strong October jobs report. — Reuters

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