US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Iran Says Tanker Caught Fire After Mine Strike in Eastern Hormuz; Claim Unverified

- Iran's military said on Monday, November 16, 2026 that a tanker caught fire after hitting a mine in the eastern Strait of Hormuz and warned vessels to avoid restricted areas; Reuters could not independently verify the report. — Reuters
- Iran's navy said on Sunday night that an oil tanker caught fire after striking a naval mine east of the Strait of Hormuz, Reuters reported, and Reuters could not independently verify that report. — Reuters
- The new claim follows the Revolutionary Guards' claim on Sunday, November 15, 2026 that two tankers were on fire after striking naval mines in the Strait of Hormuz, which Reuters could not independently verify and for which no vessel was named. — Reuters

Bahrain Sentences Scores, Mostly Shi'ite Clerics, to Life in Prison Over IRGC Plot

- Scores of Bahrainis, mostly Shi'ite clerics according to a rights group, have been sentenced to life in prison on charges of colluding with Iran's Revolutionary Guards to undermine the state, the prosecution said on Monday, November 16, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy said 64 defendants had been sentenced to life and five others to 15 years in prison, and that 60 of the defendants were Shi'ite clerics, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The High Criminal Court convicted all the defendants, some of whom were tried in absentia, of establishing and running a terrorist group linked to the IRGC that sought to overthrow the government, the prosecution said, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Bahrain, a Shi'ite-majority country ruled by a Sunni Muslim family and home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, has long been anxious about Iranian influence, and Iran has previously rejected Bahraini accusations of interference in its internal affairs, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Between May and June, Bahraini authorities arrested more than 50 clerics and religious orators, accusing them of trying to incite rebellion and overthrow the ruling order with help from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Reuters reported. — Reuters

China Confirms Thursday Trilateral in Shenzhen; UN Backs Any Denuclearisation Effort

- China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday, November 16, 2026 that the trilateral meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin will take place on Thursday in Shenzhen, on the sidelines of the APEC summit, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told reporters in Beijing this would be the first face-to-face meeting among the heads of state of China, Russia and the United States, calling it of groundbreaking significance for world peace and strategic stability, Reuters reported. — Reuters

- Mao Ning did not give details of what exactly is on the agenda for the trilateral meeting, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in Manila on Monday, November 16, 2026 that the United Nations is prepared to support any denuclearisation effort that may arise from this week's summit, while saying such an outcome is not yet guaranteed, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Guterres also reiterated the UN's call for a diplomatic solution to end the US-Israeli war against Iran, which President Trump is also expected to raise at the summit, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent futures were down 47 cents, or 0.49%, to $95.37 a barrel by 0145 GMT on Monday, November 16, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- US West Texas Intermediate crude fell 23 cents, or 0.26%, to $88.33 a barrel by 0145 GMT on Monday, November 16, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The International Energy Agency said the world oil market will return to a surplus in the fourth quarter, with supply averaging 105 million barrels per day, 1.7 million barrels per day higher than forecast demand, and shipments through the Strait of Hormuz nearly restored to pre-war levels, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The US 10-year Treasury yield was flat at 5.1433% on Monday, November 16, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters

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