US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Iran Targets United States Base in Kuwait as Bahrain Intercepts Again

- Iran's army said on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 that it targeted United States installations at Kuwait's Ali Al Salem base, the first Iranian attack on Kuwait since September, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Kuwait's General Staff said its air defences were countering hostile drone attacks and that explosions heard were interceptions; Kuwait did not name Iran and reported no damage or casualties, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Iran's army said its combat and kamikaze drones targeted United States air defence systems and launch platforms at Ali Al Salem; claims that Patriot systems were destroyed were not independently verified and Kuwait reported no damage, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Bahrain said on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 that it intercepted Iranian aerial attacks for the third time this week, Reuters reported. — Reuters

ADNOC Says One Crew Member Missing and Eleven Injured After Hormuz Attack

- The UAE's ADNOC L&S said on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 that one crew member was missing and 11 were injured after one of its vessels was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, that the rest of the crew had been evacuated, and that search and rescue operations were ongoing, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- ADNOC L&S did not name the vessel it said was attacked, and it has not been independently confirmed whether it is the Panama-flagged LPG tanker Tara Gas, whose crew abandoned ship off Khasab, Oman on Tuesday with one crew member missing, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards and navy said on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 that a ship carrying liquefied natural gas and two oil tankers had caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz; Reuters could not independently verify the reports. — Reuters

Saudi-Led Coalition Intercepts Houthi Cruise Missile Launched Towards Riyadh

- The Saudi-led coalition said it intercepted and destroyed a cruise missile launched by the Houthis towards Riyadh, and Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence authority said on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 that danger had passed in the southern cities of Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, where threat alerts had been issued, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Saudi Arabia has not confirmed or denied the Houthi claim of five drones launched towards East-West pipeline pumping stations, and there was no immediate Saudi confirmation of that claim, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Indirect Talks Stuck on Sequencing as Mediation Continues

- Indirect United States-Iran talks are stuck on sequencing, all sources who spoke to Reuters said: Tehran wants the United States naval blockade lifted, frozen assets released and oil sales restored

before substantive talks, plus an end to hostilities on all fronts and a recognised role in managing Strait of Hormuz passage, offering in return to reopen Hormuz and promise to discuss its nuclear programme later; Washington wants reciprocal, simultaneous steps including verifiable nuclear commitments from the outset, and European officials said the nuclear issue must be in the first stage and Tehran's sequencing is unacceptable. — Reuters

- Qatar's prime minister briefed the G7 countries in Paris after holding talks with President Trump, as part of the ongoing mediation effort, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Qatari and Iranian officials met on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 for talks aimed at bridging perspectives and narrowing the gap between proposals presented on the ground, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said. — Reuters

Xi, Trump and Putin Trilateral Set for Thursday With Iran on the Agenda

- Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 that he expected a big potential benefit from his upcoming trilateral meeting with United States President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, scheduled for Thursday on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Shenzhen, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Chinese President Xi Jinping called for free and open trade in his opening speech at the APEC summit in Shenzhen on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, ahead of Thursday talks among Xi, Trump and Putin expected to cover the Iran and Ukraine wars, trade, artificial intelligence and nuclear weapons, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent crude was at $89.99 a barrel on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, as oil prices fell on higher United States crude stocks tempering supply risks, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- United States West Texas Intermediate crude was at $83.90 a barrel on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The yield on the United States ten-year Treasury bond was at 5.1 percent on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters

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