US–Iran Conflict Briefing

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Houthi Missile Threat Causes Damage in Riyadh as Saudi Arabia Strikes Sanaa

- The Saudi-led coalition said on Thursday, November 19, 2026 that it had dealt with a missile threat launched by Yemen's Houthis towards Riyadh, after a loud boom was heard in the Saudi capital, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- An initial Saudi-led coalition assessment showed debris had fallen and material damage had been reported in Riyadh following the November 19 Houthi missile threat, with the extent of the damage still being assessed, and Saudi Civil Defense later said the danger had passed, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The damage in Riyadh was centred on the PIF Tower in the King Abdullah Financial District, the Saudi capital's tallest building, where windows were blown out across seven to eight floors and parts of the metal facade were bent, entrances were closed and people were evacuated, according to three people familiar with the matter, Reuters reported; the coalition attributed the damage to falling debris, while the three people familiar with the matter described the building as struck by an incoming missile. — Reuters
- It was the second hit in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District this month, after an Aramco building there was hit on November 8, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- There were no immediate reports of casualties in Riyadh following the November 19 Houthi missile threat, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The Saudi-led coalition also said it had intercepted and destroyed a cruise missile launched towards Saudi Arabia's southern region, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Saudi aircraft carried out airstrikes on the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital Sanaa early on Thursday, November 19, 2026, the Houthi-run Saba news agency reported shortly after the Houthi missile threat towards Riyadh, without providing further details, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- On Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 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 danger had passed in the southern cities of Jazan, Najran and Khamis Mushait, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- Saudi officials now foresee the campaign against Yemen's Houthis stretching on for up to six months, well into 2027, aiming to see gains on the ground by the kingdom's Yemeni allies before any negotiations, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Trump and Putin Meet in Shenzhen Ahead of Trilateral With Xi

- Ukraine dominated the bilateral meeting between President Trump and President Putin in Shenzhen on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- President Trump and President Putin also discussed bilateral ties and their upcoming joint meeting with President Xi Jinping during their Shenzhen meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters

- Expectations for a major breakthrough at Thursday's Shenzhen trilateral are low; President Trump wants nuclear arms control as a central topic despite Chinese objections, and has said Ukraine and Iran will come up, Reuters reported. — Reuters

United States Sanctions Hezbollah-Linked Charity in Push Against Iran's Proxies

- The United States on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 issued new Hezbollah-related sanctions targeting three people based in Lebanon and three entities, including the Hezbollah-affiliated charity Ta'awanu Association and its founder, the Treasury Department said, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- The sanctions were issued as part of a broader United States effort to shut down Iran's proxy networks, the Treasury Department said, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Markets

- Brent crude was at $92.12 a barrel on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters
- United States West Texas Intermediate crude was at $83.17 a barrel on Thursday, November 19, 2026, Reuters reported. — Reuters

Shipping

- Crude shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have returned to roughly pre-war levels, Reuters reported. — Reuters

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