



TOP STORY • OIL

Oil Stays Above \$110 as Ships Find Ways Around the Strait of Hormuz

Gulf oil is flowing again, yet the price keeps climbing, and that can reach the family shopping bill.

Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

When a lorry brings food to your local shop, it runs on fuel, and fuel starts with oil. Much of that oil sails through one narrow sea lane, the Strait of Hormuz, between Iran and the countries of Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Here is the surprise. Data firm Kpler says Gulf countries sent out 24.6 million barrels a day in the week to 18 October, more than before the war. Yet on Friday 30 October Brent, a price many countries follow, briefly went above \$117 a barrel, its highest since April.

Why? Oil is taking costlier routes. Shuttle boats pass it to tankers waiting off Oman and the UAE, and moving a barrel has cost about \$40 lately, around ten times normal, says LSEG, another data firm. October was also the deadliest month for attacks on merchant ships since the war began, with 32 incidents logged by UKMTO.



The strait lies between Iran and the coast of Oman and the UAE.

WHY IT MATTERS

Oil sets the price of fuel, shipping and many goods, so a squeezed strait can raise costs for families far away.

WORLD • ISRAEL

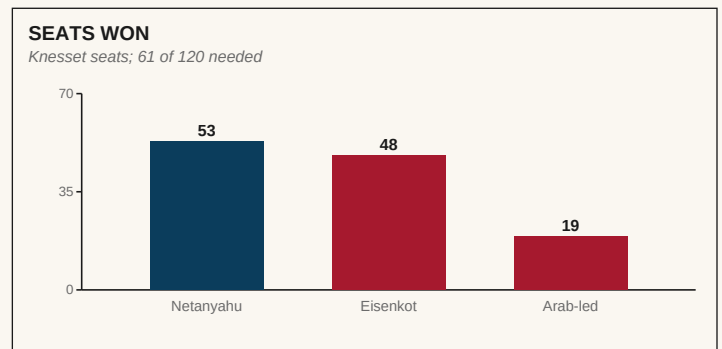
Israel's Election Ends With No Majority for Either Side

With 120 seats in parliament and 61 needed, the vote left leaders short and talking.

Picture a class election where nobody gets enough votes to win. Israel is in that spot after voting on 27 October. A government needs 61 of the 120 seats in its parliament, the Knesset, and no side reached it.

Benjamin Netanyahu's allies won 53 seats and the opposition bloc led by Gadi Eisenkot won 48. Two Arab-led parties, the United Arab List and the Joint List, won 19 together. Netanyahu has ruled out a government with them, calling it 'forbidden'. Analyst Roi Zur of Essex University says 'the numbers don't add up for any side'.

Next, President Isaac Herzog chooses someone he thinks can build a government, and that person has about 28 days. If they fail, he can choose another. If every step fails, Israelis return to the polls for a second election.



Final results. A majority needs 61 of the 120 seats; no group reached it.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Elections everywhere turn votes into power, but the rules differ: this paper's US story mentions elections for Congress on 3 November, while Israel must first build a team that can reach 61.

UNITED STATES • MONEY

The Fed Holds Interest Rates, With Two Votes for a Rise

The cost of borrowing stays put for now, but a rise is expected in December.

Families borrow for homes, cars and credit cards, and borrowing's price is called interest. The US central bank, the Federal Reserve, sets a benchmark rate that guides it. On 28 October the Fed kept that rate at 3.75% to 4%, in a 10 to 2 vote.

Two officials wanted a rise of a quarter of a percentage point: Governor Lisa Cook and Beth Hammack of the Cleveland Fed. Their worry is inflation, how fast prices rise. It reached 3.7% in September from 3.4% in August, largely because of energy prices.

The Fed meets again on 8 and 9 December, and a rise is widely expected then.

WHY IT MATTERS

Interest rates affect the cost of mortgages, car loans and credit cards.

Also in United States

- Midterms: President Trump has brought back two cancelled rallies, in Kansas and Iowa, for Sunday, before the elections on Tuesday 3 November.
- Crypto: Binance, a crypto exchange, said a breach affected about \$6.3 billion in assets and that it will cover every loss.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Brazil: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won the 25 October runoff against Flavio Bolsonaro with about 51.75% of the vote, and Bolsonaro has not conceded.
- Space: NASA's Swift telescope made its final observation on 20 October after 21 years, and it is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere within a few weeks.

TALK ABOUT IT

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If the price of oil stays high, which things your family buys might cost more, and why?

Why do you think authorities in India give warnings and move people to shelters before a storm hits?

When no group wins enough votes to govern, what could people do to reach an agreement?

INDIA • WEATHER

Cyclone Arnab Leaves Damage Across Andhra Pradesh and Floods in Odisha

Early warnings moved tens of thousands of people before the storm; now the clean-up begins.

Picture a family on the Andhra Pradesh coast on Wednesday 28 October. Cyclone Arnab reached land near Yanam that day, rated a 'very severe cyclonic storm' by India's weather office, with winds of 125 to 135 km/h at its core and gusts up to 150 km/h. It faded to a 'deep depression' by afternoon.

Many families were not at home when it arrived. Officials asked about 50,000 people in Andhra Pradesh and about 48,000 in Odisha to move somewhere safer, and at least 609 Andhra schools became places to stay. Sadiq, of Kakinada, said the warnings gave people time to prepare. In southern Odisha, floods followed and over 100,000 people were evacuated.

The clean-up has now started. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu says the first estimate of losses is Rs 4,600 crore (a crore is ten million), and may grow. He says at least seven people died, up from three in an earlier count. Farm fields covering about 70,900 hectares, mostly rice paddy, were damaged, and nearly 400 villages lost power. Families leaving relief camps get 25 kg of rice and cash.

WHY IT MATTERS

Early warnings and evacuations of tens of thousands of people helped limit the harm from a very severe cyclone.

SPORTS CORNER

SPORTS CORNER: A QUIET DAY

No verified sports results today. Back tomorrow.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

- Whether Trump's rallies in Kansas and Iowa go ahead on Sunday, two days before the midterms on Tuesday 3 November.
- Whether Brent crude, which briefly topped \$117 on Friday, stays above \$110 next week.

"Prices travel a long way before they reach our table." — The Editor

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.