THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • MIDDLE EAST

Iran Says Peace Talks Wait for Washington as Ships Are Still Hit

Iran's foreign minister says mediators have not travelled since the US elections.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said on Sunday that the go-betweens trying to end the war between Iran and the United States have not travelled since America's midterm elections. These go-betweens are called mediators. He said it is "time for the White House to make its own" choice.

President Trump gave a softer message. He told CNN that restarting attacks on Iran is "highly unlikely" if talks make progress. The talks are stuck on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and on Iran's nuclear technology.

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage that oil tankers use. The UK Maritime Trade Operations centre said at least 11 ships were attacked in and around it in the week ending November 6. Three sank.

The average price of gasoline in the US was $4.06 a gallon on November 5 and 6.



The map marks Iran and Oman, which border the Strait of Hormuz, and Qatar, whose leader is a key mediator.

WHY IT MATTERS

Oil and gas pass through this narrow strait, so trouble there can change what a family pays for fuel.

WORLD • UKRAINE

Europe Will Join Ukraine Talks in Abu Dhabi After a Missile Barrage on Kyiv

Russia fired 36 ballistic missiles at the Kyiv area before talks.

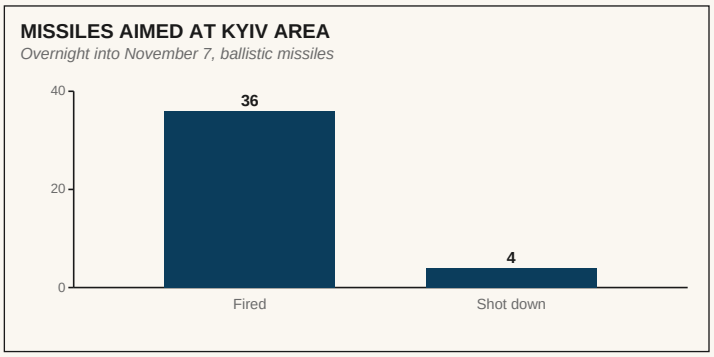
Overnight into Saturday, Russia fired 36 ballistic missiles and 172 drones. President Volodymyr Zelensky said all 36 missiles were aimed at Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, and the area around it. Only four were shot down, he said. Nine people were wounded.

A bridge over the Dnipro River was hit, and Kyiv had trouble with electricity, running water and heating.

Delegations from Ukraine, Russia and the United States plan to meet in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, on November 10 and 11. It is the first round of talks led by the US since February.

On Sunday, France's foreign minister, Jean-Noël Barrot, said European officials will attend too. The Kremlin's spokesman had said there was no role for Europe.

Russia has demanded that Ukraine give up large parts of its land and give up joining NATO.



Russia fired 36 ballistic missiles; Zelensky said only four were intercepted.

CONNECT THE DOTS

History: this is the fourth US-brokered round, after talks in Geneva in February.

UNITED STATES • CONGRESS

Democrats Plan Their First 100 Hours After Winning Congress

Votes on health insurance, Medicaid, tariffs and the Iran war are planned for January.

Democrats won majorities in both the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. They take office next January, and they are already planning what to do first. In the House, they talk about their “first 100 hours”.

One vote would bring back stronger help with health insurance costs. This help comes from the Affordable Care Act and ran out while Republicans held Congress. Another vote would undo cuts to Medicaid, the government health plan for people with low incomes.

Democrats also want a bill to undo Trump’s large tariffs, which are taxes on goods from other countries, and to give Congress back its role in setting them. They plan another vote on ending the Iran war, or on making Trump ask Congress before continuing it.

Hakeem Jeffries, now the Democrats’ leader in the House, is likely to become Speaker. He would be the first Black Speaker in US history. He said investigation targets have not been chosen yet.

WHY IT MATTERS

The party that controls Congress decides which bills get votes, so these plans could change health care and prices for families.

Also in United States

• The Fed’s Mary Daly says more interest-rate rises are likely.

• Daly says Americans are on a “treadmill of high inflation”.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Israel: President Isaac Herzog asked Gadi Eisenkot, Netanyahu’s main challenger, to try to form a government.

• India: Telangana Today reports Ayodhya lit 36 lakh earthen lamps for Deepotsav, before Diwali.

TALK ABOUT IT

TALK ABOUT IT

Why can a narrow sea route matter to families far away?

If you could make a new rule to clean the air in a big city, what would it be?

INDIA • DELHI

Delhi Breathes Very Poor Air on Diwali, and Worse Is Forecast

The city’s air quality index averaged 376 on Sunday, and forecasters expect “severe” air from Monday.

Diwali, the festival of lights, was on Sunday. In Delhi the air was very poor. The Air Quality Index, a number that tells how dirty the air is, averaged 376. It was 369 on Saturday. On the official scale, 301 to 400 is “very poor” and 401 to 500 is “severe”.

At 7 pm, 19 of 59 monitoring stations showed “severe” air, and 33 showed “very poor”. Jahangirpuri was worst at 460. The main pollutant was PM2.5, tiny particles in smoke, and firecrackers added to it. Light winds trapped the dirty air. A warning system expects “severe” air from Monday for several days.

Rules are already in force. On Friday an air-quality commission started Stage III of its plan across Delhi and nearby districts. Some older cars may not drive, dusty building work stops, and schools up to Class 5 go to hybrid mode.

The Supreme Court also acted. Chief Justice Surya Kant said the AQI was close to 400 and that vehicle fumes were a big cause. He called for a “people’s movement”. The court wants short, medium and long plans, and the next hearing is on November 16.

WHY IT MATTERS

Dirty air can harm people’s lungs, and the rules for it change how families travel and how children go to school.

SPORTS CORNER

SPORTS

Football: The Cincinnati Bengals beat the Atlanta Falcons 34-17 in Madrid, Spain, on Sunday, with Joe Burrow throwing three touchdown passes.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Whether Europe gets a seat at the Abu Dhabi talks on November 10 and 11.

• Whether mediators travel again to restart US-Iran talks.

“A good question at breakfast can be the start of the best story of the day.” — The Breakfast Table

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.