THE YOUNG GLOBAL CITIZEN

DAILY

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SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • OIL AND THE IRAN WAR

Oil Falls as Iran and Qatar Talk for a Third Day About Ending the War

No deal has been reported, but hope of one pulled the price of oil down on the eve of America's midterm elections.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Few things reach a family budget as fast as the price of oil. On Monday 2 November, Iranian and Qatari officials held a third straight day of talks aimed at a deal to end the war between Iran and the United States and Israel. Qatar is acting as a mediator, a go-between who helps two sides that are not ready to settle things directly. Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araqchi, said on Sunday the talks were "ongoing and progressing", and that Tehran is ready for both defence and diplomacy.

No deal has been reported, but oil traders reacted to the hope. Brent crude, the main global oil price, ended October at its highest level in six months after rising almost 14% during the month. On Monday it dropped. The Associated Press said it fell about 7.5% to roughly $104.98 a barrel, while an Australian market report had it near $111 in the afternoon after reaching $117.64 earlier in the day. Before the war began, Brent was near $70.

Why does a conversation in the Gulf matter so far away? Attacks on oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz are pushing up energy and shipping costs around the world.

For American families, the link is the gas pump. The war is now in its ninth month, and rising gas prices have become a major issue in Tuesday's midterm elections, when voters choose a new Congress. President Trump said he hopes voters weigh falling oil prices when they vote. Market analyst Tim Waterer sounded a warning, saying talk about Iran could grow louder after the elections and push Brent toward $120.



Attacks on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz are raising energy and shipping costs.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Oil sets the cost of fuel, shipping and many goods, so news from the talks can change what a family pays. That makes diplomacy in the Gulf a household story for families in the United States and India alike.

WORLD • HEALTH

WHO Chief Says Recent Outbreaks Show the World Must Finish Its Pandemic Treaty

Negotiators in Geneva still disagree on how countries would share dangerous germs, and the vaccines made from them.

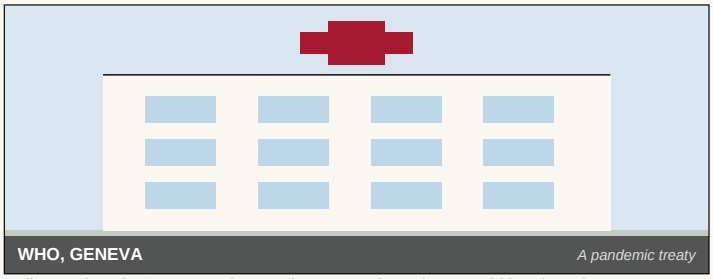
A pandemic is an outbreak of disease that spreads across many countries at once, and the world wants to be ready for the next one. On Monday 2 November, the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, told a negotiating meeting in Geneva that recent outbreaks, including Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo, show the need to complete the international pandemic treaty. A treaty is a written agreement that countries promise to follow.

His message was about distance. "A pathogen threat anywhere can become a threat everywhere, to people of every country," he said. A pathogen is a germ that can cause disease, and the idea is that an outbreak far away can reach any home.

The world already has the start of a plan. The Pandemic Agreement was adopted in May 2025 as a framework for future pandemics, the kind of crisis COVID-19 was. But wealthy and developing nations still disagree on how it would work in practice, which is why the treaty is not finished.

The sticking point has a long name: the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing system, or PABS. It governs how pathogens with pandemic potential are obtained, and how the vaccines, tests and treatments made from them are shared out. To reach agreement so far, negotiators left out how PABS will actually operate.

Tedros argued that COVID-19 showed why the details matter. The world developed vaccines quickly, he said, but many countries waited while others secured far more than they needed. The talks in Geneva are an attempt to decide fairness rules before the next emergency rather than during it.



Talks continue in Geneva on how pathogens and vaccines would be shared.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Economics: when something is scarce, whoever orders first is served first. That is the problem Tedros described for COVID-19 vaccines, where some countries secured far more than they needed while others waited. Deciding how pathogens, vaccines and tests are shared is the treaty's way of changing that, for families in rich and poor countries alike.

INDIA • CYCLONE

Cyclone Murasu Is Forecast to Cross Andhra Pradesh's Coast Overnight

A severe cyclonic storm was expected near Nellore and Narsapur between late Monday and early Tuesday.

A severe cyclonic storm named Murasu was expected to cross the southern coast of Andhra Pradesh between 11:30 PM on 2 November and 4 AM on 3 November. Forecasters placed the crossing between Nellore and Narsapur, near the town of Ongole. Winds were expected to blow at 100 to 110 kilometres an hour, gusting to 120.

Preparations had begun before the storm arrived. In neighbouring Tamil Nadu, schools in Chennai were closed on 2 November.

A forecast is a prediction, not a result. The track and strength of a storm can still change before it reaches land, so the numbers above describe what was expected on the evening of 2 November, not what happened.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A cyclone warning gives families hours to move to safety and plan ahead. Closing schools in Chennai before the storm is one way authorities act on a forecast.

Also in India

• Economy: gross GST collections rose nearly 23% to over Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October, the Finance Ministry said.

• Railways: Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said India's first home-built bullet train design is ready, with a prototype due to roll out early.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Belgium: Prime Minister Bart De Wever offered his government's resignation to King Philippe on Monday after budget talks failed, and the king is considering it.

• WHO: Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a Geneva meeting on Monday that recent outbreaks show the pandemic treaty must be completed.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Mediator
A person or country that helps two sides talk when they will not deal directly. Today: Qatar is acting as a mediator in the talks with Iran.

Sell-off
A period when many people sell shares at once, pushing prices down. Today: Friday's tech sell-off wiped billions from the Nasdaq.

Pathogen
A germ that can cause disease. Today: the treaty talks are about how pathogens with pandemic potential are obtained and shared.

Cyclonic storm
A large spinning storm with strong winds and heavy rain. Today: Murasu was forecast to cross the Andhra coast as a severe cyclonic storm.

DID YOU KNOW?

Washington, D.C. has nearly 700,000 residents, more than Wyoming or Vermont, but it elects only a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives.

UNITED STATES • MARKETS

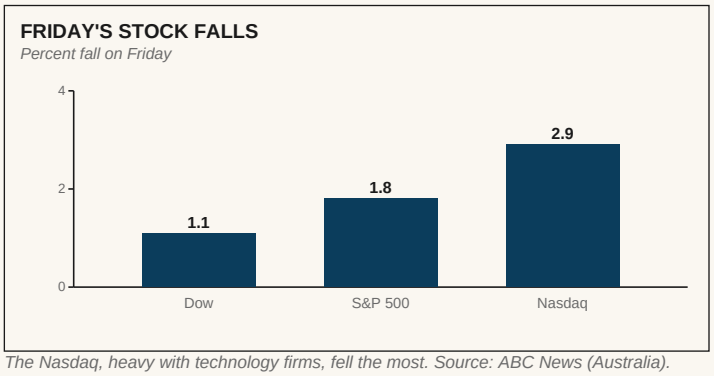
Big Tech Shares Slide as Investors Question the Cost of AI

More than $2.6 trillion in value was wiped from large technology companies in October.

The stock market is where shares in companies are bought and sold, and many families own a slice of it through retirement savings. On Friday the S and P 500 index fell 1.8%, the Dow fell 1.1% and the Nasdaq, which is heavy with technology companies, fell 2.9%. That left the Nasdaq almost 8% below the record high it set three weeks earlier.

The trigger was disappointing news from large companies. Friday's sell-off followed weak quarterly results from Intel, whose shares fell almost 30%, and from Amazon. Alphabet had its biggest one-day percentage fall on record. Across October, more than $2.6 trillion in value was wiped from big technology companies, and the Nasdaq fell about 6% for the month.

The picture is not all bad. JP Morgan says more than 80% of S and P 500 companies that have reported beat what analysts expected. The worry is whether the huge sums being spent on artificial intelligence will pay off. Next week Apple, AMD, Qualcomm and Palantir report their results.



The Nasdaq, heavy with technology firms, fell the most. Source: ABC News (Australia).

WHY THIS MATTERS

Many families own shares through savings plans, so falling prices can change what those savings are worth.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Why might the Nasdaq fall more than the Dow when technology firms report weak results? What would you want to know before judging AI spending?

SPORTS CORNER

SPORTS CORNER: KISHAN'S RECORD

Ishan Kishan scored 1,220 T20I runs in 37 innings in 2026, an Indian record for a calendar year, passing Suryakumar Yadav's 1,164 from 2022. **PV Sindhu** won the Hylo Open women's singles.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

• Midterms: Americans vote on Tuesday 3 November, and the results decide who controls Congress.

• Talks: Zelensky said Ukraine, Russia and the US could hold technical talks on 6-10 November, with Abu Dhabi the main venue under consideration.

"A forecast is a question the future has not finished answering." — The Editors

You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.