



Trump pauses Iran energy plant strikes for 10 days as talks ‘going very well’

March 26, 2026 foxnews.com reported: “President Donald Trump said Thursday he is pausing planned strikes on Iranian energy infrastructure for 10 days as negotiations continue, setting a new deadline of April 6.

"As per Iranian Government request, please let this statement serve to represent that I am pausing the period of Energy Plant destruction by 10 Days to Monday, April 6, 2026, at 8 P.M., Eastern Time," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The president added that "talks are ongoing" and claimed they are progressing positively "despite erroneous statements Trump wrote the talks are "going very well" as the new deadline approaches..."

Israel Took Iran's Araghchi, Qalibaf Off Hit List After Pakistan Request to U.S., Pakistani Source Says

March 26, 2026 haaretz.com reported: Israel removed Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf from its hit list after Pakistan urged Washington to press Israel not to target them, a Pakistani source with knowledge of the discussions told Reuters on Thursday.

"The Israelis had their coordinates and wanted to take them out, we told the U.S. if they are also eliminated then there is no one else to talk to, hence the U.S. asked the Israelis to back off," the source said.



*Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf
Iran Parliament Speaker*

The Wall Street Journal first reported that the two top Iranian officials had been temporarily removed from Israel's list of officials to eliminate as they explore possible peace talks. The two officials have been removed from the list for up to four or five days, the Journal said, citing U.S. officials, but did not mention any Pakistani role in it. Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey are playing the role of mediator between Tehran and Washington to end the Iran war..."

3,000 Troops from Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Set for Rapid Mideast Deployment to Support Iran-Theater Ops

March 25, 2026 Breitbart.com reported: The Pentagon is expected to order roughly 3,000 troops from the Army's elite 82nd Airborne Division to the Middle East "in the coming hours," according to a Wall Street Journal report outlining an imminent deployment of a rapid-response brigade combat team to support operations against Iran.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday, citing two U.S. officials, that a written deployment order is expected shortly for the unit, along with the division's headquarters element responsible for planning and coordination.

The move would mark a significant expansion of U.S. force posture in the region, positioning a high-readiness ground force capable of executing a range of missions if directed.

The 82nd Airborne serves as the Army's emergency response force and can deploy anywhere in the world within 24 hours. Its brigade combat teams are trained to parachute into hostile or contested territory to secure airfields and establish footholds for follow-on operations. Officials cautioned that no decision has been made to put American boots on the ground inside Iran.

The Russian oil tanker playing chicken with Trump over Cuba

March 24, 2026 politico.com reported: The Anatoly Kolodkin is steaming toward the Caribbean. The Russian oil tanker's official destination, according to one of its public broadcasts: "Atlantis, USA." More probably, it's the Cuban port of Matanzas.

Ferrying an estimated 730,000 barrels of crude oil across the Atlantic, the tanker is flying a Russian flag. A Russian warship escorted it through the English Channel, where it was tracked by the Royal Navy for 48 hours, only to turn back as soon as the tanker was clear.

While the Kremlin declined to confirm reports of Russian oil heading to Cuba, it also has made little effort to conceal its hand. That's because the tanker was never really about Cuba at all, people close to the White House, former ambassadors and Russia observers told POLITICO. It's a message, they said — a negotiating chit, a provocation designed to force a disproportionate American response while Washington is consumed elsewhere.

"Russia loves to poke us in the eye," Lawrence Gumbiner, who led the U.S. Embassy in Havana during President

Donald Trump's first term, said in an interview. Russia, he said, isn't "serious about coming to Cuba's rescue..."

Saudi Leader Is Said to Push Trump to Continue Iran War in Recent Calls

March 24, 2026 nytimes.com reported: Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been pushing President Trump to continue the war against Iran, arguing that the U.S.-Israeli military campaign presents a "historic opportunity" to remake the Middle East, according to people briefed by American officials on the conversations.

In a series of conversations over the last week, Prince Mohammed has conveyed to Mr. Trump that he must press toward the destruction of Iran's hard-line government, the people familiar with the conversations said.

Prince Mohammed, the people familiar with the discussions said, has argued that Iran poses a long-term threat to the Gulf that can only be eliminated by getting rid of the government. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel also views Iran as a long-term threat, but analysts say Israeli officials would probably view a failed Iranian state that is too caught up in internal turmoil to menace Israel as a win, while Saudi Arabia views a failed state in Iran as a grave and direct security threat.

But senior officials in both the Saudi and American governments worry that if the conflict drags on, Iran could deliver ever more punishing attacks on Saudi oil installations and the United States could be stuck in an endless war. In public, Mr. Trump has swung wildly between suggesting that the war could end soon and signaling it would escalate..."

US Allies Saudi, UAE Edge Towards Joining Iran War

March 24, 2026 ndtv.com reported: "Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have taken steps toward joining the Iran war, the Wall Street Journal reported, potentially signaling an escalation of the fighting.

Saudi Arabia agreed to give the US military access to King Fahd Air Base, the WSJ reported, citing people familiar with the matter, an apparent reversal after saying its bases couldn't be used to attack its longtime rival.

The newspaper also cited people familiar as saying the United Arab Emirates closed an Iranian-owned hospital and club - undercutting a key source of support for Tehran.

Videos apparently showed that some missiles used in attacks on Iran were launched from Bahrain, the WSJ said. The US military declined to say if it was getting help from countries in the region, the newspaper reported.

Crude oil edged higher after the WSJ report and US stock-index futures erased gains. The reported moves by Washington's Gulf partners indicate they are growing frustrated with Iran, which has responded to US and Israeli attacks by hitting targets in several nearby nations.

Israel's attack last week on an Iranian gas field sparked retaliatory strikes by Iran against energy assets across the Middle East. President Donald Trump rebuked Israel, which later said it would no longer target energy infrastructure..."

Germany pushes new military cooperation deal with Japan

March 22, 2026 politico.eu reported: "Germany is seeking to deepen defense ties with Japan, with Defense Minister Boris Pistorius proposing a new agreement to make it easier for troops from both countries to operate on each other's territory.

Speaking at Japan's Yokosuka naval base after talks with Japanese Defense Minister Shinjirō Koizumi on Sunday, Pistorius said Berlin had floated a so-called Reciprocal Access Agreement — a framework designed to "ease the exchange of soldiers in each other's countries and significantly reduce bureaucratic hurdles."

Such agreements allow partner countries to deploy troops on each other's soil more easily for training, exercises or operations by streamlining legal and administrative procedures. Japan has signed similar deals with countries like the United Kingdom and Australia as it deepens its own security ties amid rising regional tensions.

The proposal marks a step beyond Germany's recent Indo-Pacific engagements, which have largely focused on joint exercises and short-term deployments. It signals a shift toward more structured military cooperation with Berlin's partners in the region..."



*Boris Pistorius
Germany Defense Minister*