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Iran expands attacks on Gulf states after US strikes

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Reuters

WASHINGTON/DUBAI

U.S. and Iranian forces have exchanged heavy missile and drone assaults, with Tehran targeting U.S. facilities in states across the Gulf on Sunday and

saying it had again closed the vital Strait of Hormuz.

The strikes were the latest in a cycle of attacks and counter-attacks as Iran seeks to assert control over shipping through the strait. However, the barrage marked an escalation in pace and range.

The strikes extended to Qatar,

a mediator in ceasefire talks that had not come under attack since April, while the United Arab Emirates, which had not been targeted since early May, said its air defenses had engaged missiles and drones from Iran.

The renewed violence casts further doubt on the future of an

interim U.S.-Iranian agreement signed last month that aimed to reopen the strait and end the war after a further 60 days of negotiations.

In the past week, U.S. President Donald Trump has said he considers the ceasefire over, while leaving the door open to more talks.

The war that began with U.S. and Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28 has destabilised the Gulf, while Iran's effective blockade of the strait has driven energy prices higher, fuelling global inflation.

Higher prices, especially for gasoline, are politically sensitive for Trump ahead of November's congressional elections.

FLURRY OF STRIKES

Iran has sought to establish a permanent system for collecting fees in the strait, which carried one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas shipments

SEE IRAN, 4A

Golden mussels have spread but only via connected waterways

BY ANDREW GRAHAM
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The discovery of golden mussels at Sacramento's deepwater port late last month, though worrying, was not unexpected by researchers tracking the invasive species' spread through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. But the ongoing challenge for authorities, and for the state's aquatic recreationalists, is keeping the destructive bivalve contained to the Delta's waterways.

Since authorities first discovered the species in the region in late 2024, they've sought to make sure the mussels don't spread to lakes and rivers that aren't tied into the Delta, including famed recreation destinations like Lake Tahoe and Lake Berryessa.

"At this point, golden mussels have only spread to waters hydrologically connected to the Delta, and that's good news," Krysten Kellum, a spokesperson for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Bay Delta Region, told The Sacramento Bee in an interview Friday.

The discovery at the Port of West Sacramento, first reported last month and confirmed by California DFW on June 27, marks the farthest north in California that the mussels have been documented to date.

First discovered at the Port of Stockton in October 2024, authorities believe golden mussels reached California's waterways via international shipping. Mussels and other invasive species often spread globally via ship's ballast systems, through which water is sucked into the ship at one port and discharged, along with the species living inside it, at another location.

Sacramento's port is connected to Suisun Bay by a 40-mile deepwater channel. These days, ships primarily leave carrying rice and come in carrying cement, according to West Sacramento's website about the port.

However, authorities say they think the mussels discovered in the port in June came not from a ship but from a locally established population in the Delta, Kellum said.

The DFW maintains an online map tracking confirmed mussel sightings. It shows the species spread south after infiltrating the California State Water Pro-

SEE WATERWAYS, 4A



VALENTYN OGIRENKO Reuters file

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) speaks to the media after his meeting with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Friday.

LINDSEY GRAHAM, 1955-2026

GOP senator was defense hawk, staunch Trump ally

Reuters

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican who went from a vocal critic of Donald Trump to one of his most loyal allies after Trump became president, has died, his office announced on Sunday. He was 71.

The South Carolina lawmaker

died after a "brief and sudden illness," his office posted on X. U.S. media said emergency personnel had responded to a call for cardiac arrest at his Capitol Hill home in Washington on Saturday night.

The contest to succeed Graham will not impact the broader fight for Senate control in November between Repub-

licans and Democrats, as South Carolina is a reliably Republican state.

However, his death robs Trump of a dependable Senate vote as the president seeks to push his agenda in the closely divided Senate. It also comes as another senior Republican in the upper chamber - Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky -

remains hospitalized for undisclosed health problems.

Under South Carolina law the state's Republican governor, Henry McMaster, can immediately appoint a temporary replacement to fill Graham's seat.

State Republicans must then also hold an expedited primary election to pick a nominee for the November 3 general election. That nominee does not have to be the same person McMaster picks as a temporary replacement.

Graham, a defense hawk, was a prominent supporter of Israel and Ukraine and an opponent of Iran.

Just back from a trip to

SEE GRAHAM, 3A

California allows rubber bullets and pepper balls for wolves

BY SHARON BERNSTEIN
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California wildlife officials have begun authorizing sheriffs in the state's northern rangeland to use rubber bullets, paintballs, pepper balls and other injury-causing harassment methods against wolves, and are working on a plan to allow ranchers to use some of the same techniques.

The authorizations mark a

significant shift in the state's approach to managing the state's resurgent population of gray wolves, which are protected under federal and state endangered species laws and previously could only be hazed or chased by state and federal law enforcement officers.

The change was greeted cautiously by ranchers and law enforcement officials - and with concern by environmentalists.

"I don't think any violence

against wolves is something that I welcome," said Amaroq Weiss, senior wolf advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity. "What I recognize is that there has been frustration in the livestock operator community who feel that they are not allowed to do enough."

Weiss questioned whether such action was allowed under California's wolf conservation plan, pointing to setbacks in reaching reproductive milestones required under the pro-

gram before aggressive hazing can be permitted. She also urged strict training requirements before any authorization of actions that could harm wolves.

HAZING AGREEMENTS IN THREE COUNTIES

The new approach comes amid growing concern about wolves among ranchers and local law enforcement after a single pack killed nearly 100 cows and calves in seven months last year in Sierra Valley north of Truckee. Just this week, a UC Davis study showed that the diet of wolves in north-eastern California was com-

SEE WOLVES, 5A



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