

Ceasefire in Danger: Ship Seizures and Vessel Attacks Rock Oil Markets as Wall Street Opens

- A dramatic weekend in the Gulf has pushed the US-Iran ceasefire to the edge of collapse, with vessel attacks in the Strait of Hormuz and the US Navy seizing an Iranian cargo ship on Sunday.
- Iran refused to attend a second round of peace talks in Pakistan, and the two-week truce is set to expire on Tuesday — making this the most critical 48 hours of the conflict for global markets.
- Oil prices surged more than 5% in response, with WTI crude jumping to \$88.54 a barrel, reversing the 10% drop seen on Friday when Iran had briefly declared the strait open.
- US stock futures are down 0.5% ahead of the New York open, erasing early session optimism — a reminder that last week's all-time highs came with strings attached.

The strait remains closed, 13 million barrels a day of oil remain off the market, and Tuesday's ceasefire deadline is now the most important date on the global economic calendar.

Wall Street Opens Lower as Geopolitical Risk Returns

- The S&P 500 is expected to open near 7,090 points, down around 0.5% from Friday's close, as investors price in the weekend escalation. Last week the index gained 4.5% on ceasefire hopes.
- The Nasdaq 100 is down 0.4% in pre-market trading, around 26,565 points — despite a 13-day consecutive winning streak through Friday that was the longest since 1992.
- The Dow Jones Industrial Average futures are lower by 258 points, dragged down by airlines. American, Delta, and United are all down more than 2% as higher oil prices threaten their costs and passenger demand.
- One bright spot: Marvell Technology has jumped more than 7% pre-market after reports it is in talks with Google to build two new AI inference chips — a positive signal for the semiconductor sector.

What the Data Shows Today

CHINA RATES HELD

3.10% — 11th Month

China's central bank left its key lending rate unchanged for the 11th month in a row, holding steady as higher energy costs from the Hormuz disruption weigh on growth

WTI CRUDE

\$88.54/barrel (+5.6%)

Oil surged after Iran refused peace talks and vessel attacks resumed in the Gulf; a Tuesday ceasefire deadline now looms

US 10-YEAR TREASURY

4.262% (up)

Bond yields are rising not on growth optimism but on inflation fears — elevated oil prices complicate the Federal Reserve's path to cutting interest rates

NO MAJOR US RELEASES TODAY

Light Data Monday

Today's US economic calendar is quiet, which means geopolitical headlines will have an even stronger grip on market direction

Commodities and Crypto at the US Open

OIL AT \$88.54

WTI crude is up 5.6% after Iran rejected talks and vessel attacks resumed in the Gulf on Saturday. Just three days ago, oil had fallen 10% on hopes the strait was reopening — that optimism has fully reversed.

GOLD AT \$4,809

The precious metal is holding steady with a slight gain, supported by safe-haven demand as investors hedge against the risk of a full conflict restart. Gold has been one of the steadiest assets through this period of volatility.

BITCOIN AT \$75,200

Crypto dropped more than 4% over the weekend during the escalation but has partially recovered, climbing back above \$75,000. The move reflects Bitcoin's growing sensitivity to global risk sentiment — it fell when tension rose and recovered as markets stabilised slightly.

ETHEREUM AT \$2,230

Ethereum is tracking Bitcoin lower on the day, down around 2.3%, but is holding its key support level as the broader crypto market absorbs the geopolitical turbulence without a deeper selloff.

Where Markets Stand at the US Open

MARKET	SENTIMENT	KEY DRIVER	DIR
Oil and Energy	VOLATILE	Ceasefire near collapse; WTI up 5.6%; vessel attacks resuming in the Gulf	▲
US Equities	BEARISH	Futures down 0.5%; reversing last week's record-breaking rally on geopolitical risk	▼
European Equities	NEUTRAL	Europe had a strong morning session (DAX up 2.28%) but US tone is now cautious	↔
Gold and Precious Metals	BULLISH	Safe-haven demand provides support; gold holding near \$4,809 with ceasefire risk premium intact	▲
US Dollar	BULLISH	Safe-haven flows and oil-driven inflation fears pushing the dollar higher against most currencies	▲
Crypto	NEUTRAL	Bitcoin back above \$75,000 after weekend drop; tracking global risk tone rather than any specific catalyst	↔

This is a market at a crossroads — a deal before Tuesday could trigger a sharp relief rally, but a ceasefire collapse would test how resilient last week's highs really were.