

# MEIWeekly.



Supporters of pro-Iranian factions in Baghdad's Tahrir Square on 13 January 2024 protesting against strikes by US and British forces targeting the Houthis. The demonstration also voiced opposition to the presence of Washington's forces in Iraq. Photo: Murtaja Lateef / AFP

## WHAT'S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

- **READ:** MEI's latest *Insight* explores the complexities of India-Iran relations, shedding light on the growing strains due to New Delhi's alignment with Washington, and its impacts on their bilateral relationship. Read this article [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### US Strikes Militia Sites in Iraq After Base Attack

US Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III stated that the strikes were a "direct response" to Iranian-sponsored militias' attacks on Washington and coalition personnel in Iraq and Syria. The strikes hit headquarters, training locations and storage areas of Iranian-backed groups.

### Israeli Soldiers Killed in Gaza Buffer Zone Blast

The Israeli military suffered the deadliest day of its ground invasion of the Gaza Strip on Monday when 24 soldiers were killed. About 20 of them died in an explosion while they were preparing to level buildings to help create a buffer zone with the Palestinian enclave.



The deaths plunged Israel into a state of mourning as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces domestic divisions on the war's direction and increasing global criticism over civilian casualties and worsening humanitarian conditions in Gaza. Photo: AFP

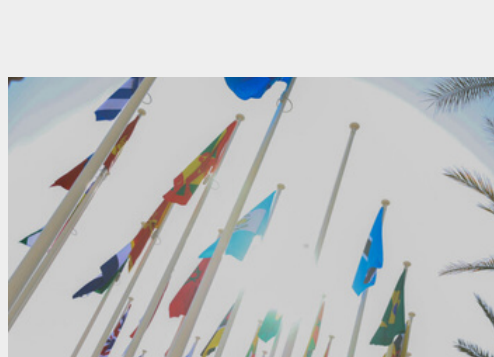
### UAE Funded Political Assassinations in Yemen, BBC Finds

Training provided by American mercenaries were allegedly used by the Emiratis to instruct locals, sparking a surge in targeted killings. The resulting deadly environment is argued to have indirectly emboldened the Houthi rebels, who are now threatening the Red Sea trade route.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### Does COP 28 Signal an End of Fossil Fuels?

What are the main outcomes of COP 28? Do these get us on track to keeping 1.5°C within reach? Does the phrase "transitioning away from fossil fuels" signal an end for the fossil fuel industry? Join MEI and industry experts to explore these and more. This public talk will be conducted both in-person and online via Zoom on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, from 4pm to 5.30pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).

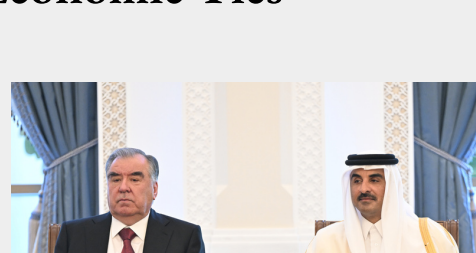


The UAE hosted the 28th summit of the COP from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Photo: UNFCCC

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Qatar and Tajikistan to Boost Economic Ties

Ambassador of Qatar to Tajikistan Mubarak bin Abdulrahman Al Nasr said that the relations between both nations have entered a new phase with the implementation of agreements covering the most important areas.



The ambassador highlighted strong ties between both nations, backed by official visits between President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan (left) and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Photo: MFA Tajikistan / X

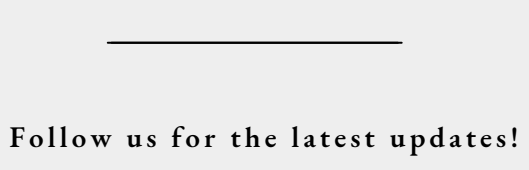
### Oman, Netherlands to Enhance Bilateral Relations

During a meeting, both sides discussed bilateral relations and emphasised their eagerness to enhance co-operation in various fields. They also reviewed regional developments and the efforts exerted to contain the current escalation in the Middle East.



Just last month, both nations signed an agreement for a green hydrogen corridor, marking a significant stride towards realising the world's first of such a route. Photo: Omani Ministry of Energy and Minerals

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