

MEI Weekly.



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) attends a press conference with Josep Borell, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (L) at the foreign ministry headquarters in Tehran on 25 June 2022. Mr Borell arrived for talks on efforts to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but the negotiations remain stalled. Photo: ATTA KENARE / AFP

WHAT'S NEWS: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

- **READ:** MEI Visiting Professor Gyorgy Busztin discusses how food insecurity threatens the Middle East once more in the fallout from the Ukraine war. Read the article [here](#).
- **READ:** Indonesia's ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries stretch from politics to economics and culture. In our latest MEI Perspectives piece, Professor Muhammad Zulfikar Rakhmat explores the past, present and future of this unique international relationship. Read his monograph [here](#).
- **LISTEN & READ:** In the 27th episode of our Boots Off the Ground podcast series, find out about whether the Chinese private security companies are the new ambassador for Chinese surveillance technologies. Listen to the full episode or read the transcript [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Iran-US Nuclear Deal Talks Stall

After the last set of negotiations ended in March this year, the latest set of talks between the US and Iran to remediate the 2015 nuclear deal ended with no progress this week, in Doha. While both countries and a number of European states who are also involved in the deal have agreed on most of the text in the deal, the stalled talks are on future compliance steps Washington and Tehran would take, including lifting sanctions in the event the deal is reinstated.

Singapore and Turkey Foreign Ministers Meet

On Saturday, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara to discuss expanding agricultural and food product imports from Turkey. The countries have been strong trade partners, with bilateral trade in goods up 50 per cent last year, reaching a historic high despite the pandemic.



Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan spoke about the growing cooperation in trade and investments between the two countries with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. PHOTO: [MFA](#)

Turkey Supports Finland and Sweden NATO Bid

After initially rejecting the Nordic countries' hopes of joining the alliance, Turkey has switched its position and now supports Sweden and Finland's bid to join NATO. The move comes after the three countries signed a joint memorandum "to extend their full support against threats to each other's security", and Sweden vowed to step up its work on Turkish extradition requests of suspected members of the Kurdistan Workers Party.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

#ICYMI: Russia-Ukraine Conflict: In Search of Silver Linings in the Energy Transition

The war in Ukraine has forced Europe to re-examine its security strategy and energy dependence on Russian oil and gas but it is not just Europe, and energy, that will be affected. What will the various impacts of the war be? What is the outlook for Singapore and other countries in Asia? Will the climate emergency return to the headlines?



The Middle East Institute hosted an event on 21 June to explore these questions. Catch up on it [here](#).

#ICYMI: Innovation and Collaboration. 25th Anniversary of the Singapore-Israel Industrial Research and Development

2022 marks the 25th anniversary of the Singapore-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation which has funded about 190 projects since its inception. The active collaboration between the two innovative countries – Singapore and Israel – which has continued to strengthen over the past five decades, was discussed in detail by MEI Chairman Bilahari Kausikan, Israeli Ambassador to Singapore Sagi Karni and CEO of ThriveDX SaaS Roy Zur. Catch up on it [here](#).



LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Israeli President Meets Jordanian King

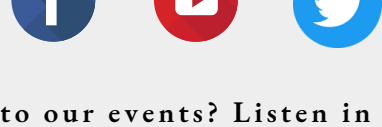
At the invitation of King Abdullah II, Israeli President Isaac Herzog visited the Jordanian leader in Amman. They discussed strategic issues and emphasised the need for dialogue in advance of President Biden's visit to the Middle East later in July. Discussions of establishing a military coalition between the two was firmly rejected by Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, while reports claim that senior military officials from Jordan and Israel attended an American-initiated meeting last March in Egypt.



Bennett Not Running in Upcoming Election

Following his government coalition falling apart, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has stated that he will not run in the upcoming election to decide the next government coalition. However, he will retain his position as alternate prime minister after Yair Lapid takes over as head of the caretaker government in the intervening period before the election.

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