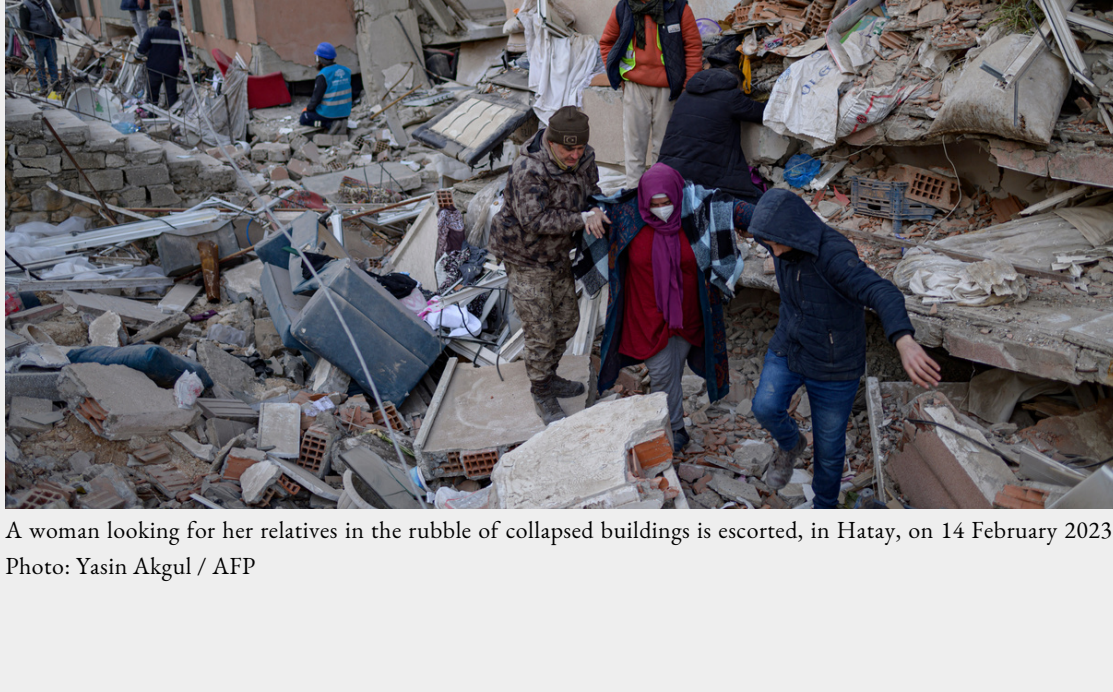


# MEIWeekly.



A woman looking for her relatives in the rubble of collapsed buildings in Hatay, on 14 February 2023. Photo: Yasin Akgul / AFP

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

- **WRITE:** Where does the Middle East figure in India's strategic direction? Is there scope to expand the partnership? MEI will explore these themes for an Insights publication, and is inviting papers. Submit your 250-word abstract by 28 February. Find out more [here](#).
- **LISTEN:** MEI Chairman Bilahari Kausikan discusses the Middle East amidst US-China competition, how nations in the region can navigate through complexity in a multipolar international system, and more. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

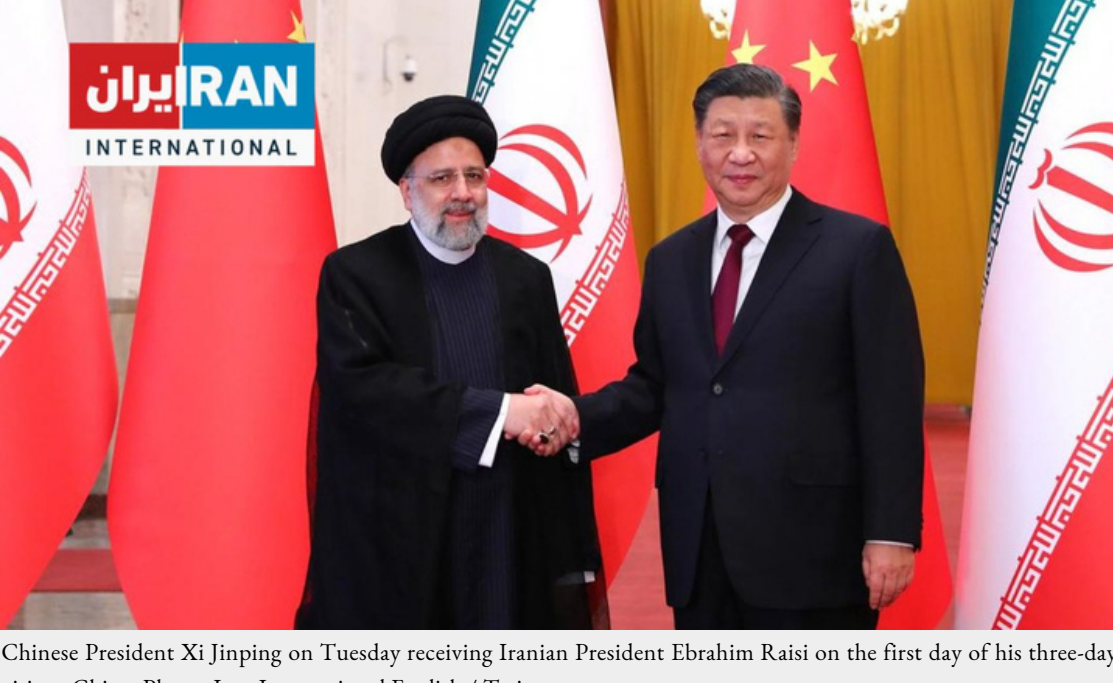
## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Over 41,000 Dead in Brutal Quake

Turkey shifted its focus to reconstruction on Wednesday, encouraging those in quake-hit areas whose buildings have been deemed safe to return home. With many survivors left homeless in near-freezing temperatures and rescues scarce, millions are in need of humanitarian aid.

### President Xi Vows Deeper Iran Ties

As Beijing hosted Iran President Ebrahim Raisi for the first time, the two sides signed several bilateral cooperation deals in various fields. Mr Xi expressed Beijing's "solidarity" with Iran in light of global uncertainty as he called for a proper resolution to the nuclear issue.



Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday receiving Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on the first day of his three-day visit to China. Photo: Iran International English / Twitter

### Protests Swell in Israel

Significant protests have maintained across the country over many weeks in which jurists and security figures have taken part, including the former chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces. Many Israelis fear for the future of democracy following the controversial judicial overhaul plan.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### [Book Launch] Asian Perceptions of Gulf Security

Gulf stability is beginning to play a larger role in the foreign policy calculus of many states, but the evolving role of Asian powers is under-represented in the International Relations literature. MEI will host a discussion with the editors and contributors of this new book that provides fresh perspectives. The online talk will be held on Zoom on Thursday, 23 February 2023, from 4 pm to 5.30 pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).

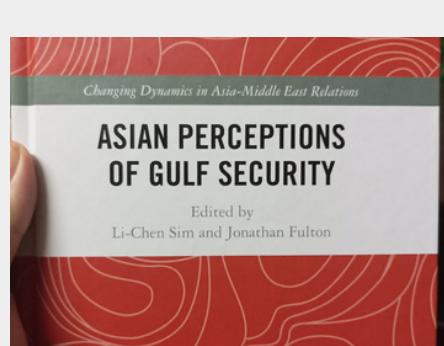


Photo: Facebook

### [Book Launch] Global Jihad: A Brief History

Most violent jihadi movements in the twentieth century focused on removing corrupt, repressive secular regimes throughout the Muslim world. But following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a new form of jihadism emerged – global jihad – turning to the international arena as the primary locus of ideology and action. This book talk will examine the history and nature of global jihad and question its future as a strategic threat from the Middle East to Southeast Asia. The talk will be conducted both in-person and online via Zoom on Thursday, 2 March 2023, from 4 pm to 5.15 pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).

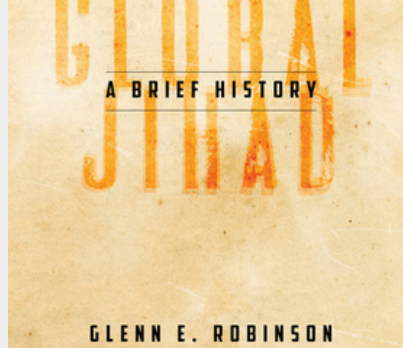


Photo: Stanford University Press

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### The Kingdom to Send its First Woman to Space

In the second quarter of this year, Saudi Arabia's first female astronaut, Rayyanah Barnawi, will travel to the International Space Station (ISS) along with fellow male astronaut Ali Al Qarni as part of the AX-2 mission.

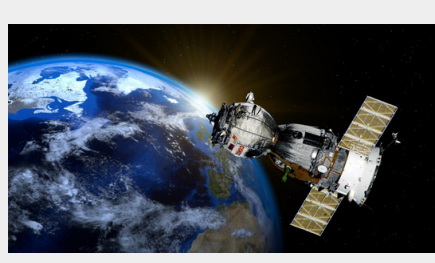


Photo: Canva

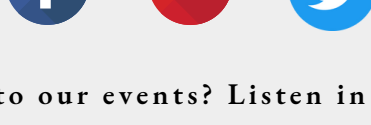
### UAE, Jordan, Egypt and Bahrain to Sign Agreements

As a crucial step towards bolstering Arab economic integration, the deals will be signed in Amman next week. The partnership aims to establish large joint industrial projects, create job opportunities, diversify the economies of partner countries, support industrial production and increase exports.

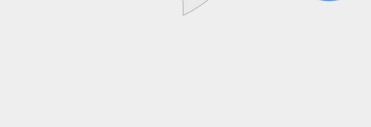


UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan meeting with, from left, Bahrain's King Hamad, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Mr El Sisi, at El Alamein Presidential Palace in New Alamein. Photo: Ryan Carter / UAE Presidential Court

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Can't make it to our events? Listen in your own time!



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