

MEIWeekly.



A poster of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu behind bars held by protestors outside the Israeli Consulate in New York on 27 March 2023, during an emergency rally for democracy. Photo: Leonardo Munoz / AFP

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

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WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Netanyahu Pauses Judicial Overhaul Plan

Amidst unprecedented strikes, the prime minister said he was delaying voting on the judicial overhaul at least until the next parliament session to allow time to reach a consensus. He, however, maintained that the overhaul was needed despite international pressure.

Sheikh Khaled Named Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

He was also appointed as the head of Abu Dhabi's executive council as UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan named his brothers to other top roles. MBZ's choice echoed a trend within Gulf Arab monarchies that favours direct lineage for succession.



Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed(c) in an inauguration of the 14th edition of the Abu Dhabi Art at the Manarat Al Saadiyat. Photo: Abu Dhabi Media Office website

FIFA Strips Indonesia as Host of U20 World Cup

The decision was taken after the country's football federation (PSSI) said it had cancelled the draw because the governor of the largely Hindu island of Bali refused to host Israel's team. A new host will be announced soon and potential sanctions may be directed at the PSSI.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

China-Mediated Deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran

This webinar will examine the rationale of the three primary players in coming to an agreement, and what might be in store for the regional security architecture in the future. This public talk will be conducted online via Zoom on Thursday, 6 April 2023, from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm (SGT). To register, click [here](#).



Many believe that the Iran-Saudi deal set in motion a new global order led by Beijing. Photo: Energy Intelligence website

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Iran and Saudi Foreign Ministers to Meet

The meeting is expected to take place before the end of the holy month of Ramadan to implement a landmark bilateral reconciliation deal, said Riyadh.



Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud(L) and his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a call. Photo: Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs website

Egypt to Allow Iranian Visas on Arrival

The Egyptian tourism ministry said that Iranians travelling with tour groups will soon be able to obtain visas on arrival in the south of its Sinai peninsula with a view to extending access to other parts of the country.



Relations between Cairo and Tehran have generally been fraught in recent decades although the two countries have maintained diplomatic contacts. Photo: The Washington Institute

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