

MEI Weekly.



Palestinians performing an evening prayer outside the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem's Temple Mount compound on 8 April 2023. Photo: Ashok Swain / Twitter

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

- **READ:** This Insight analyses the history of Sino-Israeli relations, concerns in their ties amidst the US-China power rivalry, variable factors affecting their bilateral relationship, and potential future scenarios. Read the article [here](#).
- **READ:** The latest Heard@theSouq discusses Iraq as a battleground for influence among covetous neighbours such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, in light of a shifting regional architecture. Read the blog [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Netanyahu Bans Jews from Temple Mount

In a move that was met with strong objections from far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, the premier decided to ban Jews from visiting the Temple Mount until the end of Ramadan to contain the ongoing escalation at Al-Aqsa mosque following last week's clashes.

Iran in Secret Talks with Allies to Get Banned Fuel

China and Russia are in advanced talks with Iran to supply the country with a chemical used to propel ballistic missiles. Diplomats familiar with the deal said that the quantity Iran is seeking could be used to build thousands of rockets, some of which might be used against Ukraine.



An Iranian long-range Ghadr missile displaying "Down with Israel" in Hebrew is pictured at a defence exhibition in the city of Isfahan, central Iran, on 8 February 2023. Photo by Morteza Salehi / Tasnim News / AFP

Leaked Document Reveals Egypt's Alleged Plans

Top-secret documents reportedly disclosed that President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and senior military officials discussed supplying Russia with gunpowder and artillery rounds. If proven true, this would be a potentially explosive gambit for a nation that remains deeply invested in its alliance with the US despite its ties with Moscow.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

The Indian Ocean : A New Political and Security Region

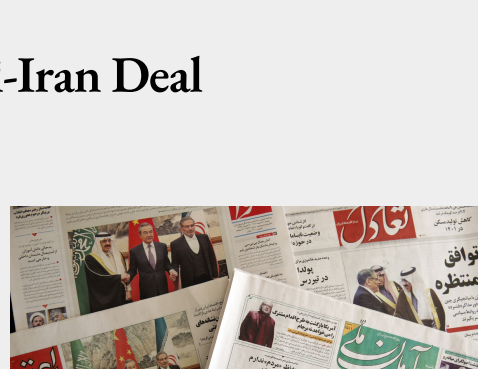
This book talk will examine the latest developments in the Indian Ocean: The evolving relations between India, China, and the US; the new role of middle powers, such as European countries or the Gulf states; the need for greater regional governance, and the implications for Southeast Asia. This event will be held both, in-person and through Zoom, on 25 April 2023 at 4pm (SGT). For more details and to sign up, [click here](#).



Photo: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

#ICYMI: China-Mediated Saudi-Iran Deal

In this webinar held on 6 April 2023, an expert panel of speakers analysed the factors that led the three major players in reaching an agreement, as well as potential future developments for the regional security architecture. If you missed it, listen to the podcast or watch the talk [here](#).



Newspapers in Tehran featuring front page news about the deal. Photo: Atta Kenare / AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Arab States to Meet in Riyadh to Discuss Syria

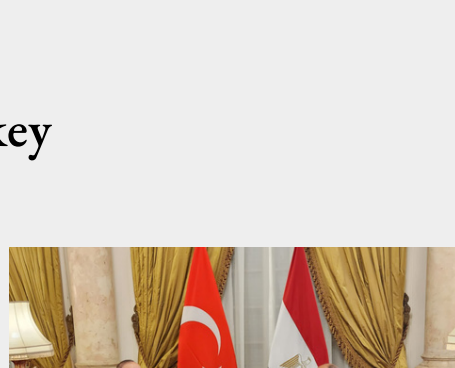
Ministers from the GCC countries as well as Egypt, Iraq and Jordan, have been invited to meet in Jeddah on Friday to discuss ties with Syria and the possibility of Damascus returning to the Arab League.



Syrian President Bashar Assad at a memorial ceremony for the 1973 War in October 2011. Photo: The Washington Institute

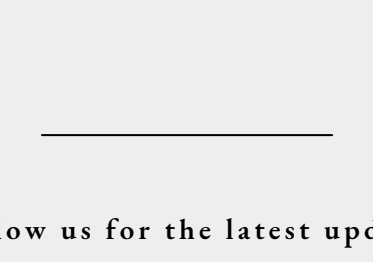
Egyptian Minister to Visit Turkey

According to the Ankara government, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry will likely travel to Turkey once again this week. It is widely expected that both countries will take steps to appoint ambassadors after this visit.

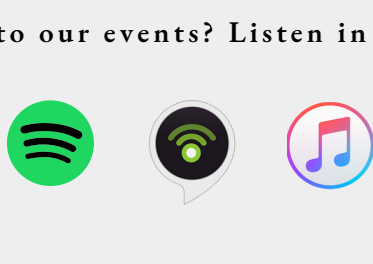


Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu(L) in a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart upon arrival in Cairo on an official visit. Photo: Mahmoud Gamal / Twitter

Follow us for the latest updates!



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



Copyright © 2023 Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore. All rights reserved. Middle East Institute Events and Publications.

Our mailing address is:
 Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore
 29 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
 Block B, #06-06
 Singapore 119620
 Singapore

Subscribe to our mailing list [here](#).