

MEIWeekly.



A 2021 picture showing Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, in Abu Dhabi. Reports say that both leaders have not spoken to each other in six months amidst rumours of a growing rift. Photo: Saudi Press Agency / Twitter

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

- **READ:** MEI's latest Perspective explores Tokyo's efforts to strengthen its economic and defence ties with the Arab Gulf states, aiming to achieve self-sufficiency and ensure a secure environment for its immediate energy needs. Read the article [here](#).
- **READ:** MEI Research Fellow Clemens Chay shares his insights on Kuwait's four-year government action programme, which makes no mention of VAT plans. Read his comments [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Saudi Crown Prince Clashes with UAE President

Sources reported that MBS held an off-the-record briefing in Riyadh, expressing his belief that the UAE had betrayed their alliance. The two royals are now feuding over who calls the shots in the Middle East, much to the displeasure of the US.

Biden Invites Netanyahu to the US, Easing Tensions

White House officials clarified that the invitation does not signify a change in President Joe Biden's objections to some of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hard-line positions, which critics see as a lack of a strong stance by the administration.



The invitation to Mr Netanyahu came on the eve of a visit to the White House by Israeli President Isaac Herzog (left). Photo: White House / Twitter

Return of the Morality Police

Police vans are once again patrolling Iran's streets to enforce hijab rules for women. Under this new campaign, officers will wear body cameras and will no longer be called 'morality police'. The move has already led to demonstrations as protestors took to the streets.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ICYMI: Hydrogen - More Hype than Opportunity?

On 18 July 2023, MEI held a webinar on hydrogen development in the Gulf and South-East Asia. If you missed it, don't fret – we have you covered! Watch the entire webinar or listen to the podcast by clicking [here](#).



Hydrogen has been largely seen as a clean fuel with the potential to decarbonise sectors such as transportation and industry, curbing global warming. Photo: NATO

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Jordan and Japan Partner for Digital Transformation

Officials stated that under the agreement, both countries will collaborate to enhance opportunities in digital transformation, information technology, and innovation.



Jordan's Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Ahmed Hanandeh (left) and Japan's Minister for Digital Transformation Kono Taro (right) after the signing of the MOU on Tuesday. Photo: Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship / Twitter

Egypt Invites Turkey to Participate in Military Event

Egypt's Minister of Military Production Mohamed Salah Eddin Mustafa has invited Turkey to join the largest military event held in the country, the Egypt Defense Expo (EDEX), scheduled for December. Both nations also discussed fostering collaboration between their respective military production companies and Turkish firms in various manufacturing fields.

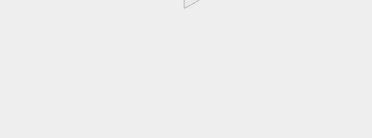


Back in March, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu (in picture) described relations between Turkey and Egypt as "historic" with a basis in a common culture. Photo: Mevlut Cavusoglu / Twitter

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