

MEIWeekly.



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met the UAE's President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 22 October 2023 at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi during his six-day official visit to the region, which included a trip to Saudi Arabia. Photo: Lee Hsien Loong / Twitter

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

- **WRITE:** MEI's latest *Insight* explores the growing military-security ties between India and the GCC states, the challenges facing New Delhi's interests in the Middle East, and the opportunities for the nation amidst shifting regional politics. Read the article [here](#).
- **READ:** Can Indonesia maintain its pro-Palestine stance while having unofficial ties with Tel Aviv amidst the Israel-Hamas conflict, or will this balancing act succumb to pressure? Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Singapore and the UAE Boost Climate Collaboration

Ahead of the COP28 summit in Dubai next month, PM Lee and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, witnessed the signing of one agreement and seven MOUs, six of which are related to climate and digital technologies.

Israel Agrees to US Request to Delay Gaza Invasion

Anticipating threats to its forces once Israel launches its ground invasion of the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory, the US persuaded Tel Aviv to hold off the incursion until air-defence systems can be placed in the region to protect its troops there.



Israel is also taking into account in its planning the effort to supply humanitarian aid inside Gaza, as well as diplomatic efforts to free hostages held by Hamas militants, the news report said. Photo: Benjamin Netanyahu / Twitter

Erdogan Submits Bill to Ratify Sweden's Nato Bid

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who had long-delayed Stockholm's Nato bid to secure concessions from Washington, has now cleared the way for Sweden to join the alliance. The Bill's passage through the Turkish Parliament is now expected to be a mere formality.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

COP28: A Course-Correction COP?

What can we expect from the UAE as host of COP28? Can it steer global climate action in the right direction? Find out from a panel of experts in this webinar, hosted by MEI in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Singapore, on 9 November 2023, from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm (SGT). For more details and to sign up, [click here](#).



Abu Dhabi will be the fourth Arab country to host the climate summit, which will take place from 30 November to 10 December 2023. Photo: COP28 UAE / Twitter

ICYMI- ME 101 2023: Closing Session

Get ready to rewind the clock and join MEI in revisiting the finale of the ME 101 lecture series! MEI's Executive Director Michelle Teo took us through the fascinating discussions, that lit up the series. The big question, what does all this mean for Singapore? Jump over to the full video or listen to the podcast to find out - [here](#).



Singapore's leader, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, had previously underscored the Middle East's significance due to the Israeli-Palestinian issue's emotional impact on its Muslim population. Photo: Pixabay

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Brazil's Lula to Visit Riyadh Soon

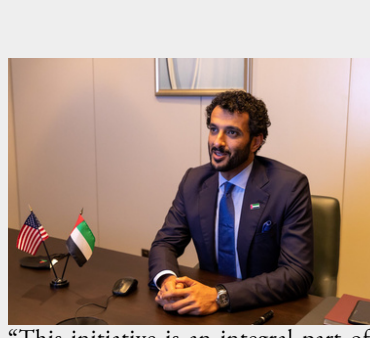
During a live social media broadcast, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (in picture) said that he would probably make a stop in Saudi Arabia on his way to the UAE for the upcoming COP28 summit. The purpose of this visit would be to discuss potential investments from the Kingdom, aligning with his administration's newly launched "growth acceleration" plan for the country.



The leftist leader is recovering from hip surgery he underwent late last month and has yet to be cleared by his doctors to travel. Photo: Lula / Twitter

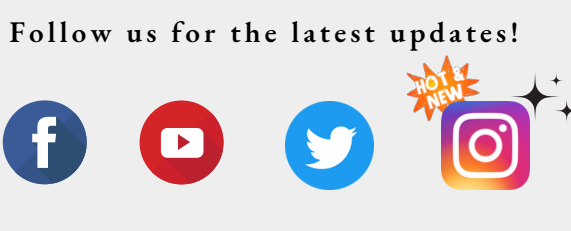
GCC to Roll Out Unified Tourist Visa

The visa will allow holders to travel to the six Gulf countries, and will be implemented within the next two years, the UAE's Minister of Economy Abdullah bin Touq Al-Marri (in picture), told Emirates News Agency on Monday.



"This initiative is an integral part of the GCC 2030 tourism strategy", said the Minister. Photo: UAE Embassy US / Twitter

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