

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE MIDDLE EAST | 17 - 21 June 2024

MEIWeekly.



Four more days until MEI's Annual Conference 2024! Don't miss your chance to hear from former President Halimah Yacob and Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing. Secure your seat now.

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

• **READ:** MEI's latest Perspective analyses the Gulf region's ambitious pursuit of hydrogen as a cornerstone of its green transformation efforts and economic diversification. To read, click here.

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Less Than One Week to Go for MEI's Annual Conference

Registration closes next Monday! Former Singapore President Halimah Yacob is set to deliver the opening speech, while Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing will conclude the conference with a dialogue. See you at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom next Tuesday at 9am!

Turkey Wins First Euro 2024 Game, Paints Dortmund Red

Praised by many as the best match of the tournament so far, Turkey defeated Georgia 3-1 in impressive fashion. The large Turkish diaspora in Germany turned Dortmund's famous "Yellow Wall" red, as the team claimed its "home advantage".



Turkish player Arda Guler (right) made history by becoming the youngest player to score on his debut in the tournament, beating the record held by Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo. Photo: AFP

More than 1,000 Hajj Pilgrims Die in Mecca

More than half of the victims were unregistered pilgrims, many participating despite being turned away and lacking access to cooler spaces, according to Riyadh. The rising toll of deaths underscored the gruelling nature of a pilgrimage increasingly affected by climate change.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

Middle East Institute Annual Conference 2024

The countdown to MEI's flagship event has begun! The conference will explore whether Gulf education systems can meet the demands of a knowledge-based economy, and the role of social and cultural reforms in producing a workforce for the future. It will be conducted both in person and online via Zoom, on Tuesday, 25 June 2024 from 9am to 4pm (SGT), at the Orchard Hotel. To sign up, click **here**.



A global line-up of speakers will participate in discussions across three panels, covering themes such as the role of women in advancing the reform agenda in the region, among others.

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Israel Says Lebanon Offensive Plan 'Approved'

After Hezbollah published a drone footage of surveillance over Haifa in an open threat, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz threatened Hezbollah's destruction in a "total war". "We are very close to the moment when we will decide to change the rules of the game against Hezbollah and Lebanon", said Mr Katz.



Despite the White House's push for de-escalation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that the military was ready for an intense operation in Lebanon if necessary. Photo: AFP

A Battle of Anti-Western Hardliners in Iran's Elections

Iranians plan to boycott the vote after Sunday's announcement of the approved candidates. Many were hoping this election would be an opportunity for the country's government to rebuild its relationship with much of the populace and improve its image.



Women who registered to run for elections were disqualified by the nation's Guardian Council. Photo: Canva



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