

# MEIWeekly.



Ahead of Wednesday's Parliamentary session to approve his Cabinet members, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian made a passionate appeal to lawmakers, urging all political factions in the country to "join hands" and "set aside past differences". Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** MEI Research Fellow Clemens Chay reviews *Imperial Mecca* by Michael Christopher Low, whose book explores the Ottoman Hijaz and its impact on empire, religion, and technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. To read the full book review, click [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Iran's Parliament Approves Pezeshkian's Entire Cabinet

It was the first time in over two decades that a leader has been able to get all of his officials through the body. The approval was an early win for Mr Pezeshkian, who chose a consensus Cabinet with names acceptable to all power centres within Iran's theocracy.

### US Push for Gaza Cease-fire Falls Short

Israeli and Hamas officials downplayed the idea that a deal could be imminent, saying that mediators' efforts have not resolved major disputes. Sources said parts of the American bridging proposal appeared to conform to new demands added by Tel Aviv.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken left the Middle East on Tuesday, warning that "time is of the essence" to secure a cease-fire to end the war in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages. Photo: AFP

### A Deadly Fire Exposes Migrant Workers' Conditions in Kuwait

A fatal fire in June, which killed 49 people, mostly Indian migrants, highlighted the plight of low-paid foreign workers in one of the wealthiest nations in the world. The government's response fell short, often penalising the workers instead of addressing the underlying issues.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### ME 101 Lecture Series 2024 #02: The UAE

Is Abu Dhabi leading the Gulf pack in terms of economic transformations? Find out in part two of the ME 101 Lecture Series. This event will be conducted on Wednesday, 4 September 2024, from 4pm to 6.30pm (SGT). To sign up, click [here](#).



The UAE has embarked on a series of reforms to position itself as an oasis of tolerance and an attractive destination for foreign talent and investors. Photo: AFP

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Qatar Prime Minister to Visit Iran Soon

Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani is scheduled to visit Iranian officials, including its Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, on bilateral and important regional issues", reported news sources in Tehran.



Mr Sheikh Mohammed's visit would come as Doha continues to play a crucial mediation role alongside Cairo and Washington in hopes of reaching a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Photo: AFP

### Indian Minister To Travel to Abu Dhabi and Washington

The nation's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri (in picture) is set to visit Washington and Abu Dhabi in the coming months for major energy events. The goal is to enhance India's energy diplomacy, diversify supply sources, and secure long-term oil and gas contracts.



Sources said Mr Puri will attend Gastech 2024 in Houston, where he will hold talks with US energy giants, before heading to Abu Dhabi. Photo: AFP

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