

MEIWeekly.



On Wednesday, acting Iranian Foreign Minister Baqeri Ali Bagheri Kani declared that Tehran would respond to the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh by attacking Israel at the “right time” and in an “appropriate” manner. Photo: AFP

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

WRITE: Just one week left to send in your 250-word abstract for MEI’s upcoming Insight series on climate-induced security challenges. For more details, click [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Middle East Braces for Wider War as Iran Seeks Retaliation

Seeking to head off a major regional conflict, Arab states and the West urged Tehran to show restraint after it vowed to attack Israel in response to the killing of Hamas’s political leader in Tehran last week.

Hamas Elevates Architect of 7 October Attacks to Top Post

Yahya Sinwar was appointed the new chief of the militant group’s political bureau after the assassination of its former leader. The selection consolidates authority in the hands of a hard-liner who is Israel’s most wanted man.



The choice of Sinwar (centre) is likely to be seen by Tel Aviv as a provocative move, and threatens to further complicate stalled US-led efforts to broker a deal to secure the release of hostages and end the war in Gaza. Photo: AFP

US Troops in Iraq Wounded After Rocket Strikes on Air Base

The attack resembled previous ones carried out by Iran-backed Iraqi armed groups, which have targeted the base repeatedly over the past several years. Initial reports were that at least five people were injured, which included both US troops and contractors.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

Iran’s New Presidency: Shifting Tides or Status Quo?

Join MEI for this webinar, which will explore the implications of Iran’s new presidency and succession plans for a new Supreme Leader. This event will be conducted on Thursday, 22 August 2024, from 3pm to 4.30pm (SGT). To sign up, click [here](#).



Mr Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn in as Iran’s ninth President in July, replacing the late Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May. Photo: AFP

ICYMI: The Middle East, South-east Asia, and Nuclear Power

On 30 July 2024, MEI conducted a virtual panel discussion which examined the increasing prevalence of nuclear power in the Middle East and South-east Asia. If you missed it, listen to the podcast or watch the full webinar [here](#).



Among other topics, this webinar discussed the paradox of oil-rich Gulf countries turning to nuclear power as an alternative energy source. Photo: US Department of Energy

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Mandarin Teachers Get Ready for Saudi Arabia

A total of 175 Chinese language teachers for primary and middle schools will begin their careers in Saudi Arabia in mid August. They will become the first batch of Mandarin teachers to serve in the Gulf nation, honouring an agreement on enhancing cooperation in Chinese language education that the two countries made last year.



Other sources say that a total of 800 Chinese language teachers will be sent to Riyadh overall. Photo: Canva

Turkey and Egypt Prepares for El-Sisi-Erdogan Summit

Both nations are entering a “new era” of cooperation, marked by high-level visits after a decade-long hiatus. They are also preparing for an upcoming summit in Ankara between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and his Turkish counterpart, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, focusing on the Palestinian cause and ending the Gaza war.



Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan arrived in Cairo on a two-day visit on Sunday aimed at improving relations between both nations. Photo: AFP

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