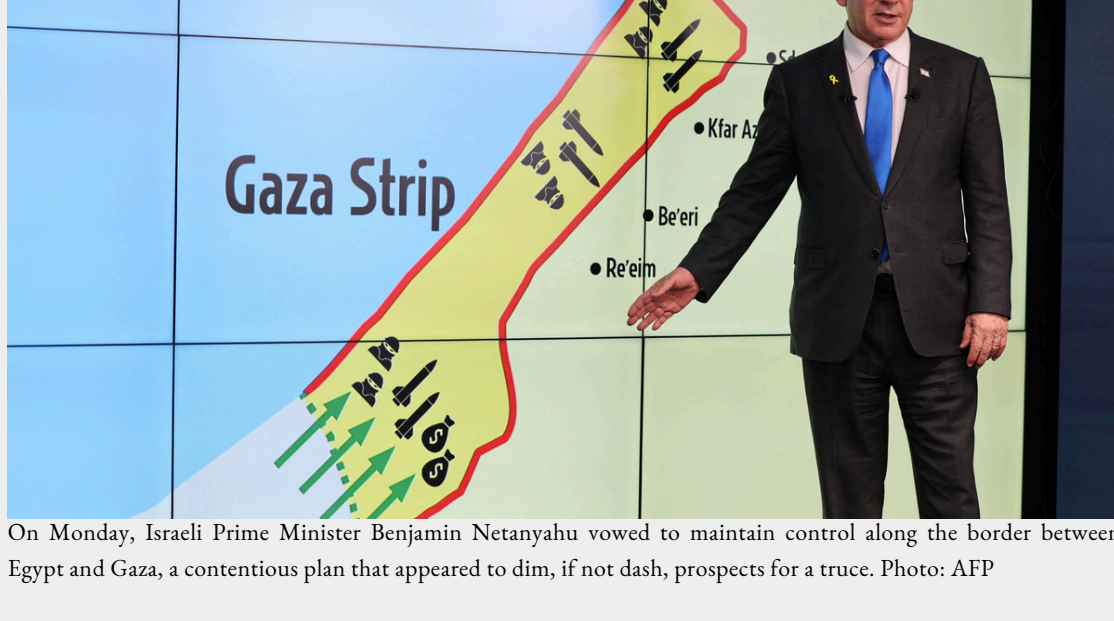


# MEIWeekly.



On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to maintain control along the border between Egypt and Gaza, a contentious plan that appeared to dim, if not dash, prospects for a truce. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** MEI Research Associate Evangeline Cheng analyses the *Dark Sides of the Startup Nation*, a book which argues that social hierarchies and structural barriers within Israel's booming tech industry create a zero-sum game. To read, [click here](#).

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

### Netanyahu Stands Firm on Cease-fire Terms

The Israeli premier refused to compromise in negotiations with Hamas and implicitly rebuked protesters for straining Israel's social cohesion. Many of his right-wing supporters largely accept his argument for driving a hard bargain with the militant group.

### US Charges Hamas Leaders Over 7 October Attack

The Justice Department announced indictments against six Hamas members on seven charges, including the murder of US citizens, conspiracy to finance terrorism, and use of weapons of mass destruction. Among them is Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.



It is the first step by US law enforcement to hold accountable the ringleaders of that attack, but has been seen by analysts as partly symbolic. Photo: AFP

### Macklemore Cancels Dubai Show Over Alleged Role in Sudan

The glamorous Gulf city is the biggest in the UAE - which has been widely accused of funding the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), one of the warring sides in Sudan. Experts say Riyadh is backing the opposing side, and is competing for influence in Africa.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### ME 101 Lecture Series 2024 #03: Saudi Arabia

The third session of the series will evaluate the progress and challenges of Riyadh's Vision 2030 plan and explore the geopolitical implications of pursuing the economic objectives under the initiative. This event will be conducted on Wednesday, 18 September 2024, from 6pm to 7.30pm (SGT). To sign up, [click here](#).



Under Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, Riyadh enacted several reforms such as lifting the ban on women driving, among others. Photo: Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministry / X

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Arab League's Foreign Minister-level Meeting

The Palestinian issue will be at the top of the agenda at the meeting, scheduled to take place on 10 September. Mr Jamal Rushdi, the spokesperson for the Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit, said that "major powers continued to protect Israel, necessitating a strong Arab response".



Arab foreign ministers meet twice a year, and the upcoming conference is expected to discuss all issues, added Mr Rushdi. Photo: Arab League / X

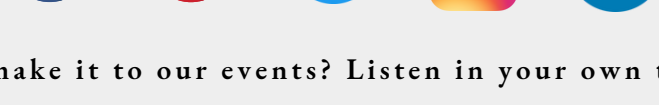
### Russia-Iran-Turkey-Syria Conference

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the four nations are planning to hold a high-level meeting soon to discuss the normalisation of relations between Ankara and Damascus. This meeting is expected to build on earlier discussions aimed at easing tensions between Turkey and Syria.



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad recently said efforts to mend ties with Turkey had so far brought no tangible results. Photo: Syrian Presidency / X

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