

# MEIWeekly.



After the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) resisted orders from the IDF to leave its positions near the Blue Line (the border between Lebanon and Israel, as well as the Golan Heights) last week, the UN reported that Israeli forces “repeatedly hit its positions” in the past 24 hours. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** MEI expert Clemens Chay’s article unpacks the background of Kuwait’s new Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleid, how the nation could evolve under his leadership, and what the world can expect to see from him. Read the article [here](#).

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

### UN Outrage Over Israel’s ‘Deliberate’ Attack on Peacekeepers

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon accused Israeli forces of deliberately firing on its positions, injuring two peacekeepers. France and Italy were among the countries that publicly condemned Israel for the incident, raising fresh accusations of violations of international law.

### Tehran Warns US’ Arab Allies Over Use Of Airspace

Iran threatened to target the Arab Gulf states and other American allies in the Middle East if their territories or airspace are used for an attack on the Islamic Republic. Arab officials said these countries include Jordan, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, all of which host US troops.



In response, these states told the Biden administration that they do not want their military infrastructure or airspace to be used by the US or Israel for any offensive operations against Iran. Photo: AFP

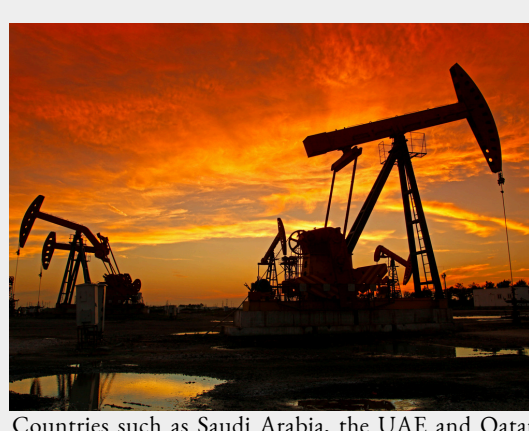
### Abu Dhabi Tops Trillion-dollar Sovereign Wealth League

The ranking – which for the first time assesses sovereign fund assets at a city level – placed Abu Dhabi ahead of Oslo, Beijing and Singapore. In addition to its financial assets, Abu Dhabi led in human capital employed by its sovereign wealth funds, according to the report.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### ME 101 Lecture Series 2024 #05: Renewable Energy Sources

The upcoming session will delve into the Gulf states’ ambitious plans to position themselves as global leaders in the renewable energy sector and their motivations behind this shift. It will also explore the various strategies used to “transition away from fossil fuels” and their impact on the global energy landscape. This hybrid event will be held on 16 October 2024, from 6.30pm to 8pm (SGT). Sign up by clicking [here](#).



Countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar are building some of the world’s largest renewable power plants as they attempt to transition away from fossil fuels. Photo: Canva

### S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture 2024

Guest speaker, UAE Federal National Councillor Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, will touch on how Islam is undergoing needed reforms in the Middle East, and how such a move is also required in South-east Asia. This flagship event will be held on 7 November 2024, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM (SGT) at the St Regis Hotel. To sign up, click [here](#).



Dr Al Nuaimi founded and currently chairs the World Council of Muslim Communities, and previously served as the first Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders. Photo: Dubai Media Office

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Erdogan’s Balkan Tour Underway

After visiting Albania, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will travel to Serbia as he seeks to strengthen ties with a region that was once ruled by the Ottoman Empire.



Albania’s Prime Minister Edi Rama (in red tie) and Mr Erdogan cut the ribbon to inaugurate the mosque of Namazjnah during its opening ceremony in Tirana. Photo: AFP

### Egypt, Eritrea, Somalia Forge Closer Ties in Volatile Horn

The leaders of each nation pledged Thursday to work together on regional security at an unprecedented summit held against a backdrop of heightened tensions in the Horn of Africa.



From left: Somalian President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi met in Asmara. Photo: AFP

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