

MEIWeekly.



Earlier this week, US President-elect Donald Trump selected his nominees for top diplomatic envoys to Israel and the Middle East, which was widely seen as a signal of a staunch pro-Israel policy. Analysts believe it is likely that Mr Trump will make US foreign policy more favourable to Tel Aviv when he takes office in two months. Photo: AFP

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

READ: To coincide with the start of COP29 in Baku, MEI has released its latest *Insights* series, which explores climate-induced security challenges. Referencing the Syrian civil war, the series begins with how environmental aggressors act as a “threat multiplier”. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Tel Aviv Prepares Lebanon Ceasefire as Gift to Trump

The terms of this proposed ceasefire deal would require Hezbollah fighters to retreat beyond the Litani River, with the Lebanese military assuming control of the border zone for 60 days. If implemented, the deal would mark an early foreign policy win for Mr Trump’s administration.

Saudi Crown Prince Says Israel Committing 'Genocide' in Gaza

In some of the harshest public criticism of Israel by a Saudi official since the start of the war, Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman condemned Tel Aviv’s actions in Gaza, and its attacks on Lebanon and Iran. He also warned Tel Aviv against launching attacks on Tehran.



MBS was speaking at a gathering of leaders from Islamic nations hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on 11 November 2024, and also renewed calls for a creation of a Palestinian state. Photo: Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministry / X

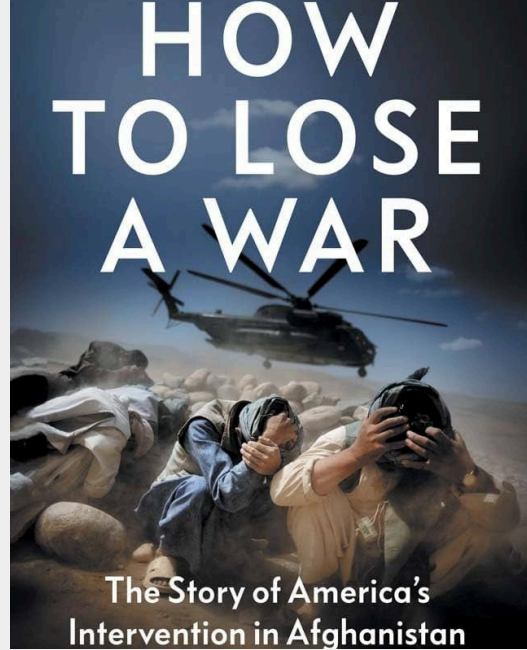
Qatar’s Emir Orders Cabinet Reshuffle

The changes saw Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, according to his office. The reshuffle also included appointing new ministers in the areas of health, commerce, social development, and transport.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

The Story of America’s Intervention in Afghanistan

Drawing on his book, ‘How to Lose a War’, RSIS Adjunct Senior Fellow Amin Saikal will discuss the key factors which contributed to the US failures and narrate important lessons learned from America’s Afghanistan experience. This book talk will be conducted both in person and online via Zoom, on 27 November 2024, 3.00pm to 4.30pm (SGT). To sign up for this event, click [here](#).



The causes of America’s failure in Afghanistan, and where the US and its allies went wrong, have been widely debated from varying perspectives. Photo: RSIS

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Erdogan Hopeful about Reconciliation with Syria

Speaking to journalists on his return from trips to Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he believes a normalisation of ties would help stabilise Syria and protect its “territorial integrity”. He added that a reconciliation can end more than a decade of tensions between both neighbouring countries.



“I still have hope that we can come together and hopefully put Syria-Turkey relations back on track”, said the Turkish President. Photo: AFP

India-UAE Ties Reach New Heights

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted the growing strength of India-UAE relations, stating that the two countries are now in an “era of new milestones”. Speaking at the launch of Symbiosis International University’s new campus in Dubai on Thursday, Mr Jaishankar praised the increasing collaboration between both nations across a wide range of sectors, including fintech, renewable energy, infrastructure, and defence.



The Indian minister also noted the growing cultural and educational exchanges, including the launch of the new Symbiosis campus. Photo: AFP

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