

# MEIWeekly.



Displaced Lebanese residents began returning home and celebrating after a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah, brokered by the US and France, took effect. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later warned that Tel Aviv would not hesitate to strike if Hezbollah breaks any part of the agreed deal. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** The second edition to MEI's *Insights* series on climate-induced security challenges unpacks how environmental aggressors are exacerbating the conflict in war-torn Sudan. Read the article [here](#).

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

### Lebanon and Israel Agree to Ceasefire Deal

A truce to end the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon took effect on Wednesday morning, bringing a fragile peace to an area that has seen more than a year of fighting. US President Joe Biden announced the deal and said it was "designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities".

### Syrian Rebel Groups Launch Largest Offensive in Years

Fighters from various rebel factions, including a group linked to Al Qaeda called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, advanced by Wednesday to within about six miles of Aleppo and took over weapons and vehicles previously held by forces loyal to the government of President Bashar al-Assad.



A Syrian war monitor on 28 November said clashes between the army and rebels killed more than 130 combatants in the worst fighting in the country's northwest in years, as the government also reported fierce battles. Photo: AFP

### UAE Names Three Uzbek Suspects in Rabbi Murder

As it was working to determine a motive, the interior ministry published photos of three blindfolded men whom it named as Olimboy Tohirovich, Makhmudjon Abdurakhim and Azizbek Kamilovich. Emirati security sources also suggested that Iran was indirectly responsible.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### MEI Round-Up 2024

Former US Army commander in Iraq and director of the CIA, General David Petraeus, will speak on the war in Gaza at MEI's upcoming event on 11 December, 3pm (SGT), at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom. Alongside MEI Honorary Fellow Bilahari Kausikan, he will discuss the prospects of a second year of war in the Middle East, the potential regional landscape when the long-anticipated "Day After" arrives, and the future of the Iran-Israel conflict. This event will be held both in person and online via Zoom. To sign up, click [here](#).



General Petraeus was the guest speaker at MEI's S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture last year. Photo: AFP

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Iran-EU Nuclear Talks Underway

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi (pictured) is in Geneva to meet his European counterparts following the collapse of a deal last week. Under the proposed agreement, Tehran would have limited its uranium enrichment to 60% purity. Tehran viewed the offer as a first step towards rebuilding trust with the West regarding its civilian nuclear programme.



The talks aim to end a two-year hiatus with no direct negotiations on the lapsed nuclear deal. Photo: AFP

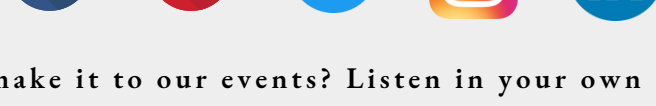
### Turkey and Oman Sign 10 Agreements

Ankara and Muscat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and water. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced plans to increase trade with Oman to US\$5 billion, reflecting their potential, and emphasised the growing economic ties between the two countries. "Starting in 2025, with liquefied gas supplies from Oman, we will enter a new phase in our cooperation", he added.



Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Strategic Agreement Signing Ceremony in Ankara on 28 November 2024. Photo: Twitter

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