

MEIWeekly.



The MEI 2024 Round-up with former US Army commander in Iraq and CIA director, General David Petraeus, and MEI Honorary Fellow Bilahari Kausikan is set to take place next Wednesday, 3pm-4.30pm (SGT), at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom in Singapore. Seats are filling up fast—be sure to sign up now to avoid disappointment!

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

READ: MEI's latest Perspective piece argues that Israel's security is now increasingly intertwined with the rest of the Middle East, including Iran, with the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts bolstering its integration. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Last Chance to Sign Up for Next Week's MEI 2024 Round-up

General Petraeus will speak on the trajectory of the Gaza war as it moves into 2025, with a particular emphasis on key escalations over the past year—most notably the spillover of conflict into Lebanon and direct confrontations between Israel and Iran. Not-to-be-missed!

US and Gulf States' Push to Cut Syria's Ties to Iran in Tatters

Even as Israel bombarded Syria for months, the US and Gulf states worked to weaken President Bashar al-Assad's ties with Tehran. Successful rebel offensives in Syria have now dampened those efforts, with analysts saying Iran and its allies remain the best hope for Mr Assad's survival.



The latest development in the Syrian insurgency saw rebel groups driving government forces from Hama, a key city held by Mr Assad's regime for over a decade, further weakening his control over the country. Photo: AFP

Amnesty International Accuses Israel of 'Genocide' in Gaza

The 296-page report details evidence gathered over nine months, outlining numerous instances in which the human rights organisation said Israeli forces and government authorities committed three of five acts prohibited under the United Nations' Genocide Convention.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ICYMI: ME 101 Closing Session

The final lecture of the series offered an in-depth regional assessment of the Middle East's political and economic landscape. It explored the prospects for regional stability, highlighting the key risks—political, security, economic, and social—faced by countries in the region. If you missed this session, you can catch up by watching the full event or listening to the podcast [here](#).



MEI Honorary Fellow Bilahari Kausikan was the speaker in the final session of the series and will also feature in next week's MEI 2024 Round-up. Photo: MEI

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Opec+ to Delay Oil Production Increases

The group's oil producers' alliance has postponed plans to unwind several formal and voluntary crude production cuts into 2026 amid a lukewarm outlook for global demand, according to delegate sources and internal documents.



Under its formal output strategy, the coalition is now restricting its combined production to 39.725 million barrels per day (bpd) until 31 December 2026. Photo: AFP

UAE and Thailand Agrees to Boost Trade and Travel Ties

Both sides are poised to deepen their partnership through a series of bilateral agreements, according to UAE's ambassador to Thailand, Mr Obaid Saeed Obaid Bintarash Aldhaheri. Speaking at a UAE National Day celebration, Mr Aldhaheri underscored Thailand's importance as a strategic partner beyond traditional oil trade.



This growing camaraderie highlights the Abu Dhabi's broader strategy of diversifying partnerships in Asia, reinforcing its role as a global economic hub. Photo: Canva

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