

MEIWeekly.



On 6 March 2025, the White House said that an Egyptian-led plan for Gaza did not meet the expectations of US President Donald Trump, who proposed the mass displacement of Palestinians from the war-battered territory. Meanwhile, Mr Trump issued a “last warning” to Hamas to release all hostages being held in Gaza. Photo: AFP

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

READ: MEI’s Insight 316 examines how the Gulf states’ rapprochement with Tehran is being challenged by the Iran-Israel conflict and shifting US policies under the Trump administration. Read the article [here](#).

LISTEN: MEI has concluded its ME Outlook series, analysing key developments shaping the Middle East and what to expect in the region in 2025. Listen to them [here](#).

WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

US Rejects Egypt-Led ‘Arab Plan’ for Gaza

The Trump administration said that the President stands by his own vision which includes expelling the territory’s Palestinian residents and transforming it into a “riviera” owned by the US. It also reaffirmed that the rebuilding of Gaza should be free from Hamas.

Hard-liners Hobble Iranian President, Stoking Political Crisis

With Tehran already wounded economically and diplomatically, hard-liners forced out two top officials and blocked talks with the US, freezing President Masoud Pezeshkian’s agenda. This has thrown his government into turmoil, raising questions about its survival.



Mr Pezeshkian speaking in Parliament on 2 March 2025, during impeachment proceedings against the country’s finance minister. Reports also suggested that more Iranian ministers face possible impeachment. Photo: AFP

Deadly Clashes Pose Test for Syria’s New Leaders

At least 16 security personnel were killed in the Latakia Province on Thursday by gunmen loyal to Syria’s ousted dictator Bashar al-Assad. It was one of the deadliest clashes for Syria’s new leaders since Assad’s government fell, and was followed by protests in the coastal region.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

MEI Salon - The Living Colours of Jewish Art

From Singapore to nations worldwide, Jewish artists have left a lasting creative legacy. MEI’s annual salon event celebrates this artistic vibrancy, where colour, movement, and innovation converge in a dynamic showcase of Jewish art. This event will be held on Thursday, 10 April 2025, from 3pm to 4:30pm (SGT) at 91 Tanglin Road. To sign up, [click here](#).



Jewish sculptures such as the Momentum (pictured) symbolises the energy and vibrancy of the financial district, Singapore and its people. Photo: David Gerstein

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Abbas Says PA Ready to Hold Elections Within a Year

On Tuesday, at an Arab League summit held in Cairo to discuss the reconstruction of Gaza, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said he was ready to hold presidential and parliamentary elections within the year—if circumstances allow.



He also announced the creation of a vice-presidential position in his government and amnesty for expelled members of his Fatah party. Photo: AFP

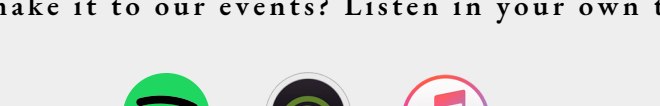
Russia Agrees to Broker Tehran-Washington Talks

US President Donald Trump reportedly reached out to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a February phone call to set up conversations with Iran about its nuclear programme and support for proxies that are hostile to the White House, sources said.



“Russia believes that the US and Iran should resolve all problems through negotiations” and that Moscow “is ready to do everything in its power to achieve this”. Photo: AFP

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