

MEIWeekly.



On Thursday, hundreds of reservists and retired officers from Israel's air force signed a letter urging the government to negotiate a deal with Hamas for the return of hostages, even if it means halting the war in Gaza. Photo: AFP

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

READ: In this CNA commentary, MEI expert Clemens Chay argues that Iran must stay clear-eyed about US President Donald Trump's appetite for risk but also see his deal-making offer as a chance to manoeuvre. Click **here** to read the article.

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Israel Fires Reservists Who Signed Gaza War Letter

After Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu called some air force reservists' criticism of the Gaza war "unforgivable", the military moved to discharge those who endorsed the letter. It was signed by about a thousand people, including a former chief of staff and senior commanders.

Netanyahu Sticks by Trump's Brazen Proposal

As the two leaders faced reporters at their Oval Office meeting, US President Donald Trump appeared to have moved on from the idea of displacing Gazans. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu raised it, saying his government was serious about "voluntary" migration.



When asked on Monday if his Gaza emigration proposal was still on the table, Mr Trump called it "a concept that I had" and that people seemed to like, before passing the question to the Israeli Prime Minister. Photo: AFP

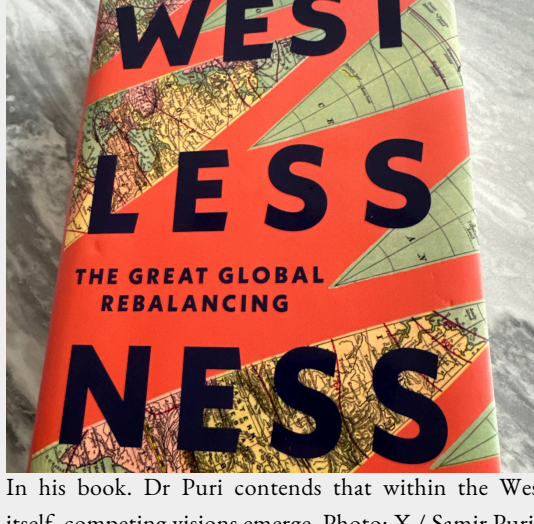
Islamic State Regains Strength in Syria

The group is still nowhere near as strong as it was a decade ago but experts warned there is a risk that it can find a way to free thousands of its hardened fighters who are held in prisons guarded by US-backed Syrian Kurdish forces. This could spread instability through the region.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

[Book Talk] Westlessness – The Great Global Rebalancing

Nowhere is this phenomenon more evident than in the Middle East. Regional powers are balancing between Western and non-Western blocs, pursuing a mix-and-match strategy. As Dr. Puri notes, groups like Brics+ are no longer just alternatives but key fixtures in the global order. Join MEI for this insightful discussion with Director of the Centre for Global Governance and Security at Chatham House, Dr Samir Puri, on these themes and the evolving dynamics of the Middle East. The event will take place on Wednesday, 23 April 2025, from 3:00pm to 4:30pm (SGT), both in-person and online via Zoom. Sign up by clicking **here**.



In his book, Dr Puri contends that within the West itself, competing visions emerge. Photo: X / Samir Puri

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Tehran and Washington to Hold Nuclear Talks

Tehran said it is ready to engage with the US at talks tomorrow over its nuclear programme "with a view to seal a deal", its Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said. But US President Donald Trump must first agree there can be no "military option", Mr Araghchi said, and added that Iran would "never accept coercion".



Mr Trump pledged to deliver a far "stronger" nuclear deal than that under the Obama administration. Photo: AFP

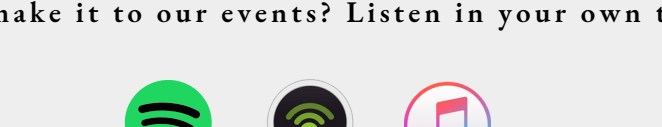
Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee Meeting Underway

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League Ministerial Committee are meeting today in the southwestern Turkish city of Antalya to discuss a "two-state solution and lasting peace in the Middle East," according to diplomatic sources. Foreign ministers from Bahrain, Indonesia, Palestine, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan are attending. This marks the committee's 20th session and its first meeting in Turkey.



The meeting will be hosted by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who is expected to highlight the worsening situation in the Gaza Strip. Photo: AFP

Follow us for the latest updates!



Can't make it to our events? Listen in your own time!

