

MEIWeekly.



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) began hearings on Monday to assess whether Israel is required to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. A US State Department lawyer argued that Tel Aviv had no duty under the Geneva convention to cooperate with Unrwa due to its concerns about the organisation’s links to Hamas. Photo: ICJ

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

READ: What’s next for the US-Iran nuclear file? Following the latest round of indirect talks, experts weigh in on what was achieved, what remains unresolved, and where the diplomacy might be heading. Click [here](#) to read.

READ: MEI Perspectives analyses how the Houthis’ growing alliances pose far-reaching security implications for both the region and the world. To read the article, click [here](#).

WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Israel Faces World Court Hearings Over Gaza Aid

The UN criticised Israel at hearings that began on Monday in the International Court of Justice, after the country blocked aid from entering Gaza for more than one and a half months. Tel Aviv, which did not send a legal team to the hearings, rejected the proceedings as biased.

Britain Joins US in Strikes Against Houthis

Typhoon jets using precision guided bombs took part in the mission, the British ministry said in a statement, adding that the strike took place “after dark” to minimise the risk to civilians. This joint operation was the first since US President Donald Trump took office.



The British Defence Ministry said early Wednesday that the operation was carried out overnight “to degrade Houthi capabilities and prevent further attacks against UK and international shipping”. Photo: AFP

Syria’s Sectarian Violence Rages On

Persistent outbreaks of sectarian violence stoked fears among the nation’s minority groups that the new government will not or cannot protect them from extremist groups. Dozens of people were killed in late April when Islamist fighters attacked neighbourhoods in the capital.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

Jordan’s Balancing Act

Amman faces growing pressure at home and abroad — from rejecting US proposals like President Trump’s “Riviera” plan to managing royal family tensions and the rise of Islamists in Parliament. Join MEI on Tuesday, 13 May 2025, from 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM (SGT) for this webinar, which will explore how Amman navigates these complex challenges while trying to stay balanced in a turbulent region. Sign up [here](#).



While both leaders were cordial with each other during their meeting in February, Mr Trump’s comments on Gaza put King Abdullah in an awkward position. Photo: US Embassy in Jordan

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Next Round of Iran Nuclear Talks Postponed

Tehran said Thursday that the next round of nuclear talks with Washington has been postponed, after mediator Oman cited “logistical reasons” for the delay.

“New dates will be announced when mutually agreed”, Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said on X.



Despite three rounds of negotiations, Washington has continued to impose new sanctions targeting Tehran. Photo: AFP

Turkey, Italy to Strengthen Defence Cooperation, Boost Trade

Italy and Turkey will continue to strengthen cooperation in the defence industry with new projects while also boosting their reciprocal trade, the leaders of the two countries said after holding talks in Rome. Both leaders also announced a new annual target of US\$40 billion in trade volume between the two countries.

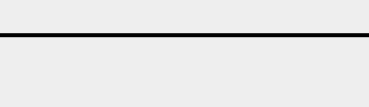


Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (right) met in the 17th-century Villa Doria Pamphili for an intergovernmental summit. Photo: Presidency of the Council of Ministers

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