

MEIWeekly.



The Israeli military struck the Syrian defence ministry in Damascus twice on Wednesday as it intervened in the clashes between government forces and Druze fighters in the country's deadliest violence in months. Photo: AFP

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

READ: MEI takes a close look at 'Statelet of Survivors', a book which dives into how the north-eastern territories of Syria navigate political realities before and after Assad's fall. To read, click [here](#).

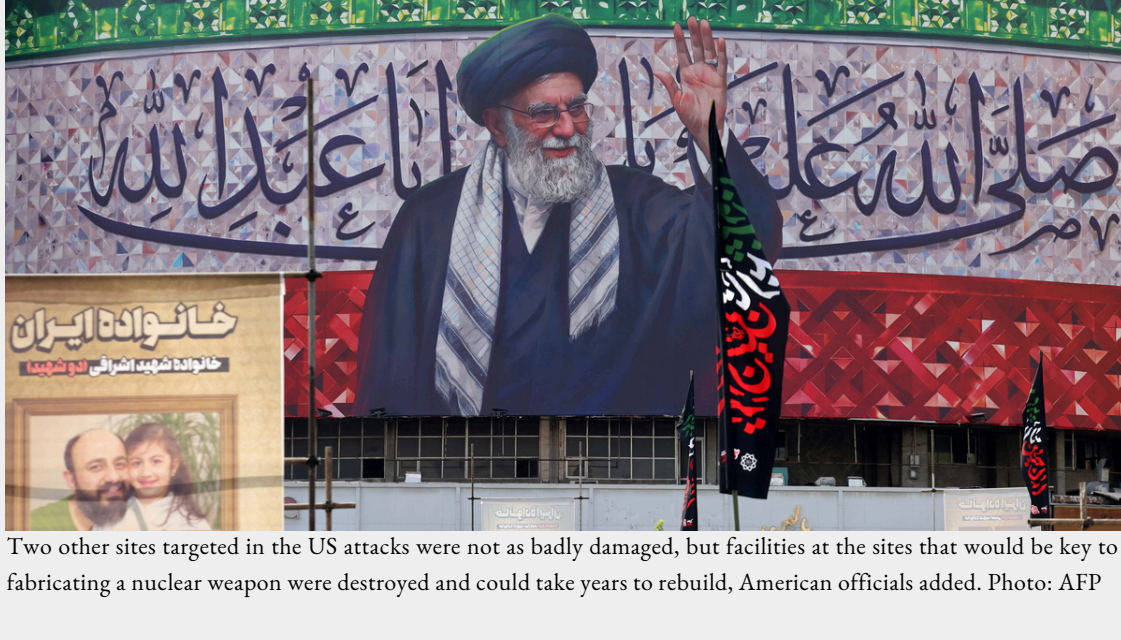
WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Syria Agrees to Ceasefire After Israeli Attack on Damascus

Syrian government forces withdrew from Sweida on Thursday after clashes with Druze-linked militias prompted Israeli airstrikes in defence of the Druze. Under this latest truce reached on Wednesday, Druze factions and clerics were appointed to maintain internal security in Sweida.

New Assessment Finds Iranian Nuclear Site Badly Damaged

While two other nuclear facilities suffered less impact from the US strikes, Fordo sustained heavy damage. Regarded as their best-protected and most advanced nuclear enrichment site, the damage there likely crippled Tehran's ability to make nuclear fuel for years to come.



Two other sites targeted in the US attacks were not as badly damaged, but facilities at the sites that would be key to fabricating a nuclear weapon were destroyed and could take years to rebuild, American officials added. Photo: AFP

Over Half a Million Afghans Expelled For Being Collaborators

Nearly 20,000 are crossing every day at the border between Iran and Afghanistan after Tehran stepped up its crackdown on them. Iranian officials and state media claim that Afghans were recruited by Israel and the US to stage terrorist attacks, seize military sites and build drones.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

[Book Talk] Jordan: Politics in an Accidental Crucible

Despite its limited resources and proximity to regional turmoil, Jordan has consistently defied expectations of instability. MEI's upcoming book talk examines how Amman has navigated internal fragmentation, economic reform, and shifting regional dynamics—offering broader insights into political resilience in the Middle East. This online event will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, 9 September 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 am (SGT). Click [here](#) to register.

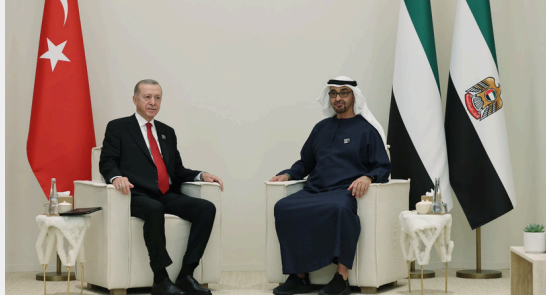


This book presents Jordan as an illustrative case for understanding the entire Middle East. Photo: Sean Yom

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Turkey and UAE Deepen Strategic Ties

On Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed ways to deepen cooperation in trade, defence, and regional diplomacy, as both countries navigate new opportunities amid shifting dynamics in the Middle East. After nearly four hours of meetings, the two leaders oversaw the signing of seven memorandums of understanding covering collaboration in tourism, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.



Relations between both nations were much colder five years ago, with Turkey threatening to cut ties with the UAE if it normalised relations with Israel. Photo: X

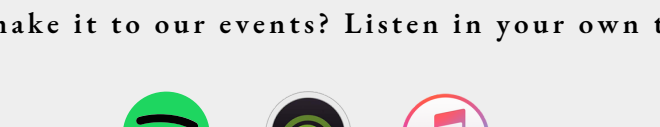
Oman Appoints Former Real Madrid Manager As New Coach

Muscat named former Real Madrid and Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz as their new head coach on Tuesday as they bid to reach the 2026 Fifa World Cup. "Queiroz has extensive coaching experience, having led the national teams of Portugal, Iran, Colombia, Egypt, and Qatar. He also served as an assistant coach at Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson", the Omani FA said on social media platform X.



Oman reached the fourth round of Asia's World Cup qualifiers after finishing fourth in Group B in the previous round. Photo: Canva

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