

MEIWeekly.



French President Emmanuel Macron announced on Thursday that Paris would recognise the state of Palestine as part of “its historical commitment to a just and durable peace in the Middle East”. He added that he would make a formal announcement to that effect at the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York. Photo: AFP

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

READ: Israel’s military strikes in response to sectarian violence in Suwayda have cast new doubt over the possibility of a peace agreement with Damascus. MEI examines this in [Heard@theSouq](#)-read [here](#).

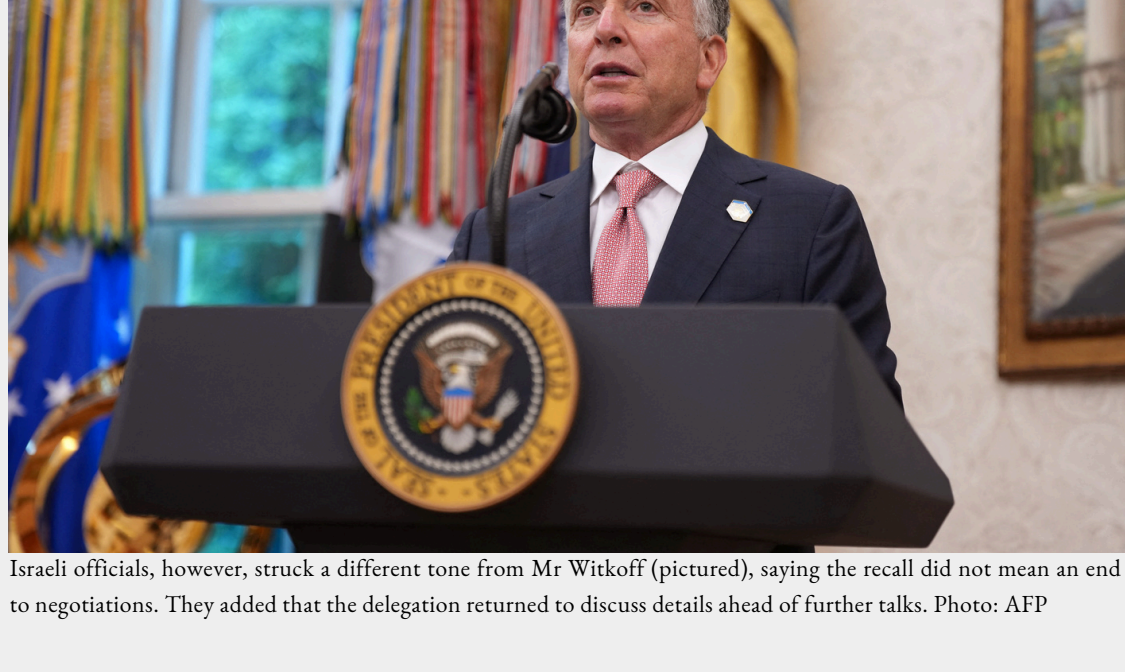
WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

France Will Recognise Palestine as a State

As Paris becomes the first of the G7 countries to do so, its decision drew strong condemnation from Israel, which called this a “reward for terror”. This move is also likely to strain France’s relations with the Trump administration, which has largely backed Israel in its war in Gaza.

US and Israel Ditch Ceasefire Talks, Recall Teams from Talks

US President Donald Trump’s Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, said Hamas’s latest response to a proposed deal reflected “a lack of desire to reach a ceasefire” and that the US “will now consider alternative options to bring the hostages home”. Hamas said it was surprised by this.



Israeli officials, however, struck a different tone from Mr Witkoff (pictured), saying the recall did not mean an end to negotiations. They added that the delegation returned to discuss details ahead of further talks. Photo: AFP

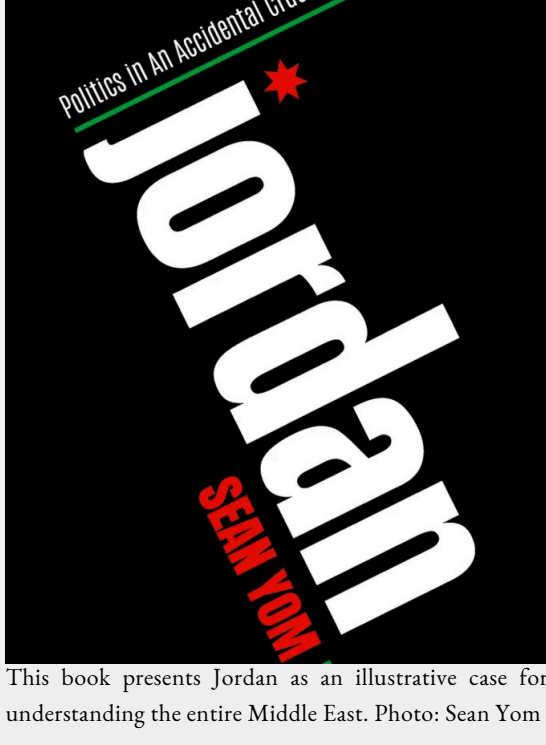
Saudi Arabia Pledges to Invest More Than US\$6 Billion in Syria

These investments, involving 47 agreements and more than 100 companies, would be an economic boon for Syrian President Ahmed al-Shara’s budding government. It was the latest sign of growing ties between both sides, with Riyadh being a key backer of the new Syria.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

[Book Talk] Jordan: Politics in an Accidental Crucible

Despite its scarce resources and proximity to regional conflicts, Jordan has consistently defied predictions of instability. MEI’s upcoming book talk delves into how Amman has navigated internal divisions, economic reforms, and evolving regional challenges —providing wider insights into political resilience across 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

Iran Nuclear Talks Underway

After the European nations warned that they would reimpose UN sanctions on Tehran by the end of August unless progress is made on limiting the Islamic Republic’s nuclear programme, talks between Iran and Britain, France, and Germany are underway. The three European countries, along with China and Russia, are the remaining parties to a 2015 deal - from which the US withdrew in 2018 - that lifted sanctions on Iran in return for restrictions on its nuclear programme.



Iran said it could withdraw from the key nuclear nonproliferation treaty if Europe followed through on its threats. Photo: AFP

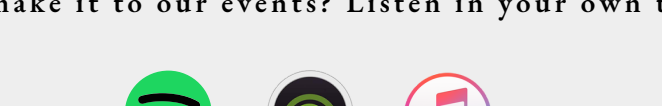
Qatar to Strengthen Tourism Partnership with Jordan

Talks were underway for the launch of joint promotional campaigns and sharing of expertise in sustainable tourism marketing. The Jordanian ministry said the diverse tourism options in Jordan and Qatar provide the foundations for fostering a partnership that can enrich visitor experiences and attract foreign travelers.



Officials from the two countries met to discuss enhanced cooperation in the tourism sector, earlier this month. Photo: X / Qatar Tourism Ministry

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