

MEIWeekly.



On Wednesday, Israeli officials informed their US counterparts that enriched uranium buried deep within Tehran’s Isfahan facility may still be accessible. They added that this uranium could potentially be retrieved by the Iranians, but reaching it would require a very complex recovery effort, and hinted at renewed military actions. Photo: AFP

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

READ: With China now the UAE’s top trading partner, MEI’s *Heard@theSouq* unpacks how the lesser-known emirates are racing to seize the moment beyond the big two. To read, click [here](#).

WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Some of Iran’s Uranium Survived Attacks, Israeli Officials Say

This assessment came as experts were trying to determine how long it would take Iran to rebuild its nuclear programme after US and Israeli strikes. It added that any attempts by Iran to recover it would almost certainly be detected — and would be met with another attack.

Hamas Agrees to Partial Hostage Release in Truce Talks

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conducted high-level talks in Washington, Hamas said it would release 10 hostages held in Gaza in a bid to reach a ceasefire deal. The militant group framed the move as part of its “commitment to the success” of peace talks.



Hamas said negotiations, led by key mediators Qatar and the US face several sticking points, including the delivery of critical aid, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and assurances of a permanent ceasefire. Photo: AFP

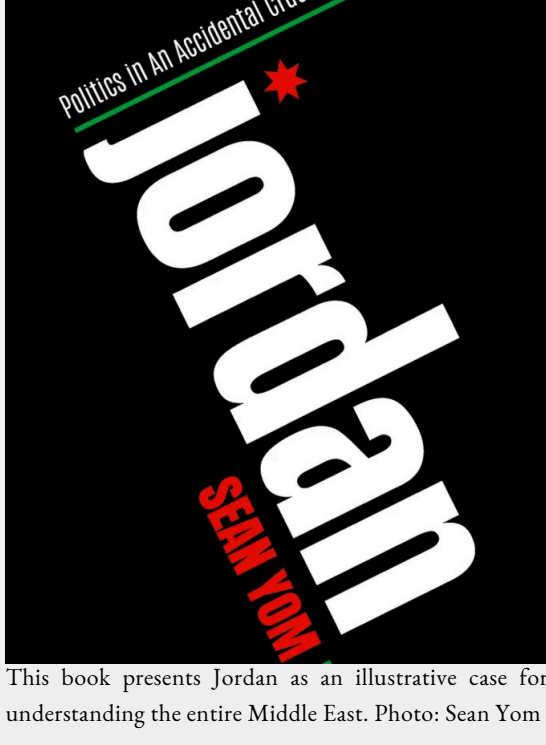
Houthis Took Sailors Hostage After Attacking Ship

The Houthi attack on Monday on the Eternity C, a Liberian-flagged vessel that was sailing through the Red Sea, also killed at least two of its crew members. The group’s military spokesman said the Houthis attacked the ship because it was headed to an Israeli port.

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: PKK Disarmament to Take a Few Months in Iraq

The handover of weapons by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Iraq, following its decision to disband, should be completed within a few months, Turkey’s ruling AK Party’s spokesperson, Mr Omer Celik, said late on Wednesday. Speaking to broadcaster NTV, Mr Celik said a confirmation mechanism, including officials from Turkish intelligence and the armed forces, will oversee the handover process.



The PKK, which has been locked in a bloody conflict with the Turkish state for more than four decades, decided in May to disband and end its armed struggle. Photo: AFP

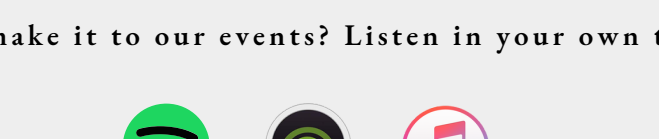
Riyadh May Raise August Oil Prices to Asia to 4-month High

Saudi Arabia, the world’s biggest oil exporter, may raise its August crude oil prices for buyers in Asia to the highest in four months, after spot prices surged during the Iran-Israel conflict and on robust summer fuel demand, trade sources said. Additionally, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and their allies are set to announce another big production increase of 411,000 barrels per day for August as it looks to regain market share, four delegates from the group told Reuters.



The 12-day conflict sent oil prices surging to a five-month high and then retreated to pre-crisis levels after a ceasefire. Photo: AFP

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