

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE MIDDLE EAST | 11 - 15 August 2025

# MEIWeekly.



added that there is nothing to recognise and no one to recognise and that this is Zhonishi at its best. I note. It is

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

Lebanese government's best chance in decades to disarm Hezbollah as it faces a race against time and a series of obstacles. Read the article here.

READ: MEI Senior Research Fellow Jean-Loup Samaan analyses what could make or break the

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Israel's Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich said that a plan to significantly expand a settlement near occupied East Jerusalem won approval and added that "anyone in the world

Far-right Minister Vows to 'Bury' Palestinian Statehood

today who tries to recognise a Palestinian state will receive an answer from us on the ground".

#### The Israeli military's top commander, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, who reportedly casted doubts on

Gaza Plan Stokes Tension Between IDF Chief and Government

government plans to capture Gaza City, faced increasing pressure on Wednesday. One minister criticised him over the promotion of top officers, while another suggested he could be fired.



CR7's Engagement Raises Eyebrows in Saudi Arabia

Even as fans celebrated the new engagement, this announcement highlighted how swiftly policies in the Kingdom have changed. The couple were not married and had been living with their children in Riyadh for two years—something that would have been punishable before.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### A re-ordered Middle East. Three panels. Insights you

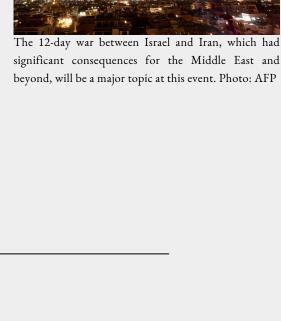
**MEI Annual Conference 2025** 

won't get anywhere else. MEI is bringing you top experts to unpack how two years of war have reshaped the Middle East for its flagship Annual Conference next month. This event will be held both in-person and online via Zoom on Tuesday, 2 September 2025, from 9am to 3:30pm (SGT). Sign-

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

European Nations Ready to Reinstate Iranian Sanctions

ups are officially OPEN- to register, click here.



## a diplomatic solution before the end of August 2025, or does not seize the opportunity of an extension, E3 are prepared to trigger the snapback mechanism", the

ministers said in the letter.

warning that they are ready to reinstate so-called "snapback" sanctions on Tehran if it does not return to negotiations over its nuclear programme, according to a letter shared by the French foreign ministry on Tuesday. "We have made it clear that if Iran is not willing to reach

Turkey to Help Syria with Weapons Systems

In a first step towards a comprehensive military cooperation accord that they have been negotiating for months, Turkey and Syria inked a memorandum of understanding on 13 August after extensive meetings between their foreign and defence ministers, and intelligence chiefs. "The memorandum aims to coordinate, plan military training and cooperation, provide consultancy, information and experience sharing,

ensure the procurement of military equipment, weapon

systems, logistical materials and related services", the

Turkish Defence Ministry source told reporters.



They added that they had offered Iran a limited

expansion to facilitate direct negotiations with

the US but the offer had remained unanswered by the Islamic Republic so far. Photo:AFP

Ankara added that it will also train the Syrian army in using weapons systems if needed. Photo: AFP

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