

# MEI Weekly.



The theme of MEI's Annual Conference this year is how the Gaza war, triggered by Hamas' terrorist attacks on Israel in October 2023, unleashed a series of seismic aftershocks that have reshaped the Middle East's geopolitical landscape. These include Tel Aviv's campaign against Iran's proxies and, then, a war with Tehran itself. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** Caught between survival and surrender, Iran needs a nuclear compromise deal urgently—but giving up uranium enrichment crosses a red line it cannot accept. Read the dynamics behind this high-stakes dilemma in MEI's Perspectives Series. Read the article [here](#).

## WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### MEI's Annual Conference to Focus On Regional War

Explore how two years of war have re-ordered the Middle East on the rest of the world at this year's conference. Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam will open the conference and answer questions on the conflict.

### Israel Defies Global Outcry, Moves in on West Bank and Gaza

Tel Aviv approved new settlements in the West Bank and announced that it was moving ahead with plans to take over Gaza City. Experts said these moves suggested Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was bending to the ideologies of his far-right coalition in order to remain in power.



These moves also raised questions about whether a new ceasefire proposal, which Hamas accepted on Monday—and which Arab mediators say is similar to terms previously endorsed by Tel Aviv—can move forward. Photo: AFP

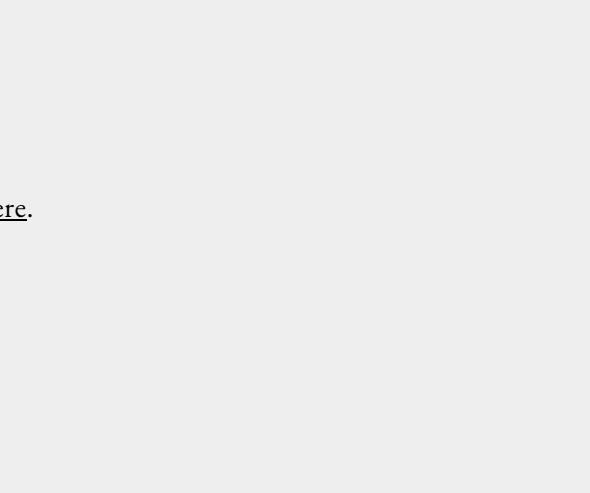
## Damage to Iran's Fordo Site Remains Uncertain

With so many variables—and so many unknowns—it may be difficult to ever really be certain, experts said. The GBU-57 bunker buster bomb probably did not reach the centrifuge chambers themselves, although analysts are still conducting detailed assessments and are yet to conclude.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### [Book Talk] Jordan: Politics in an Accidental Crucible

How has a small state like Jordan—weaker by nearly every conventional measure than most of its neighbours, facing significant resource constraints, and deeply affected by regional crises—repeatedly defied expectations of instability? MEI will explore this and more in its upcoming book talk. This event will be held via Zoom from 10am to 11am (SGT) on Tuesday, 9 September 2025. To register, [click here](#).



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

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Nato Says Turkey Will Host 2026 Summit

The bloc's Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Tuesday that the 2026 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) summit will take place on 7 and 8 July 2026 at the Bestepe presidential compound in Ankara. Mr Rutte thanked Turkey for hosting and said leaders will continue work to make Nato "a stronger, fairer and more lethal alliance, ready to respond to the critical challenges to our security".



It will be the second time allied leaders

meet in Istanbul, in 2004. Photo: AFP

### Britain and Iraq Sign Deal to Boost Migration Cooperation

"This agreement aims to further deter small boat arrivals," a British government statement said, noting that it "will establish formal processes to return those with no legal right to be in the United Kingdom swiftly".

Hailing the agreement, British Security Minister Dan Jarvis said "by working together on security, development and migration challenges, we are building stronger relationships that benefit both our countries whilst tackling shared challenges like organised crime and irregular migration".



The number of Iraqi nationals arriving in

Britain by small boat declined to 1,900 in

2,600 in the year ending March 2025, compared with

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