

MEI Weekly.



Seats for MEI's Annual Conference this year are almost gone—avoid disappointment by signing up now. To be opened by Singapore's Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam, this not-to-be-missed conference will address the topic of the hour in the Middle East: regional war. Photo: AFP

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

READ: MEI Research Associate Evangeline Cheng unpacks a stark paradox at the heart of Egypt's policy: its Gaza rhetoric contrasts sharply with its reliance on Israel for energy, economic, and security needs. Read the article in [Heard@theSouq here](#).

READ: With billions on tap, Saudi Arabia is emerging as the new kingmaker of blockbuster boxing. But can it buy its way to the top? Read the article in [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Minister Shanmugam, Experts to Speak on Gaza at MEI Event

The Middle East Institute's Annual Conference 2025 is happening next Tuesday! Don't miss your chance to hear three expert panels unpack the Gaza war's seismic impact on the Middle East and the rest of the world—get your insights delivered and burning questions answered.

Israel Kills Journalists in 'Double-Tap' Attack on Gaza Hospital

After a pair of strikes on a Gaza hospital that killed 22 people, including five journalists, Israel faced fierce global condemnation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the incident a "tragic mishap" and said that Tel Aviv was "conducting a thorough investigation".



At least 192 journalists have been killed since the start of the Gaza war, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. In a statement, the Israeli Defence Forces said that it "does not target journalists as such". Photo: AFP

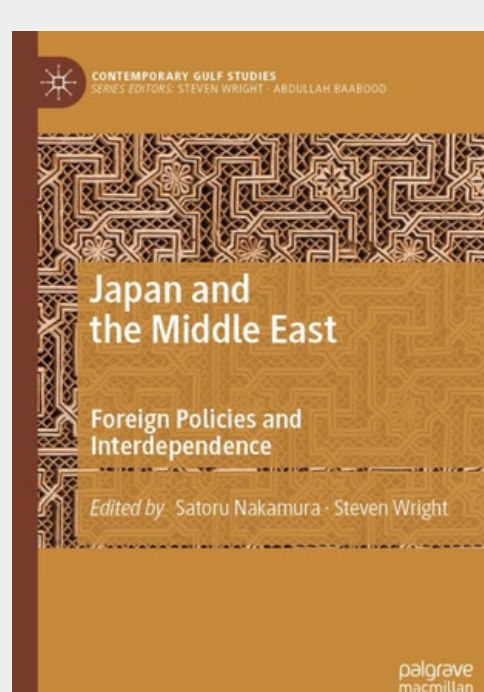
European Powers Trigger 'Snapback' Sanctions Against Iran

Britain, France and Germany have formally notified the United Nations (UN) that they have triggered the restoration of sweeping sanctions against the Islamic Republic. Tehran has 30 days to make concessions on access to its nuclear sites or face a wider global economic isolation.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

[Book Talk] Japan and the Middle East

This book talk will explore Tokyo's evolving relationship with the Middle East, with a focus on the Gulf region. Drawing on country-specific case studies and thematic analysis, the discussion will cover Japan's energy partnerships, including oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade, as well as security and broader diplomatic ties with key regional players such as Israel, Egypt, and Turkey. This event will be conducted both in person and online from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM (SGT) on Wednesday, 17 September 2025. To register, click [here](#).



Gain insights into the political economy, strategic interests, and foreign policy dynamics that shape Japan's engagement across the Middle East. Photo: Satoru Nakamura and Steven Wright

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

India and Saudi Arabia Strengthen Defence Ties

Both sides held the seventh meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation in New Delhi on Thursday, which was co-chaired by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad (pictured right) from the Indian side and Staff Maj Gen Saad Mohammed H Alkathiri (pictured left) from the Saudi side. "With a view to strengthen defence ties and explore new avenues of collaboration, the two countries held discussions in areas such as training cooperation, industrial partnerships, maritime cooperation and military exercises", the Indian defence ministry said.



"India offered to provide training to the Saudi Armed Forces and discussed cooperation in Cyber, IT, disaster management & tactical communication", added the ministry. Photo: Indian Defence Ministry / Twitter

UN to Withdraw Peacekeepers From Lebanon by 2027

The United Nations Security Council voted unanimously on Thursday to end its peacekeeping mission in southern Lebanon over the next two years, marking the conclusion of an effort launched nearly half a century ago to stabilise the volatile border between Beirut and Tel Aviv.



The goal, the UN said, is to leave "Lebanon fully in charge of southern security". Photo: AFP

Follow us for the latest updates!



Can't make it to our events? Listen in your own time!

