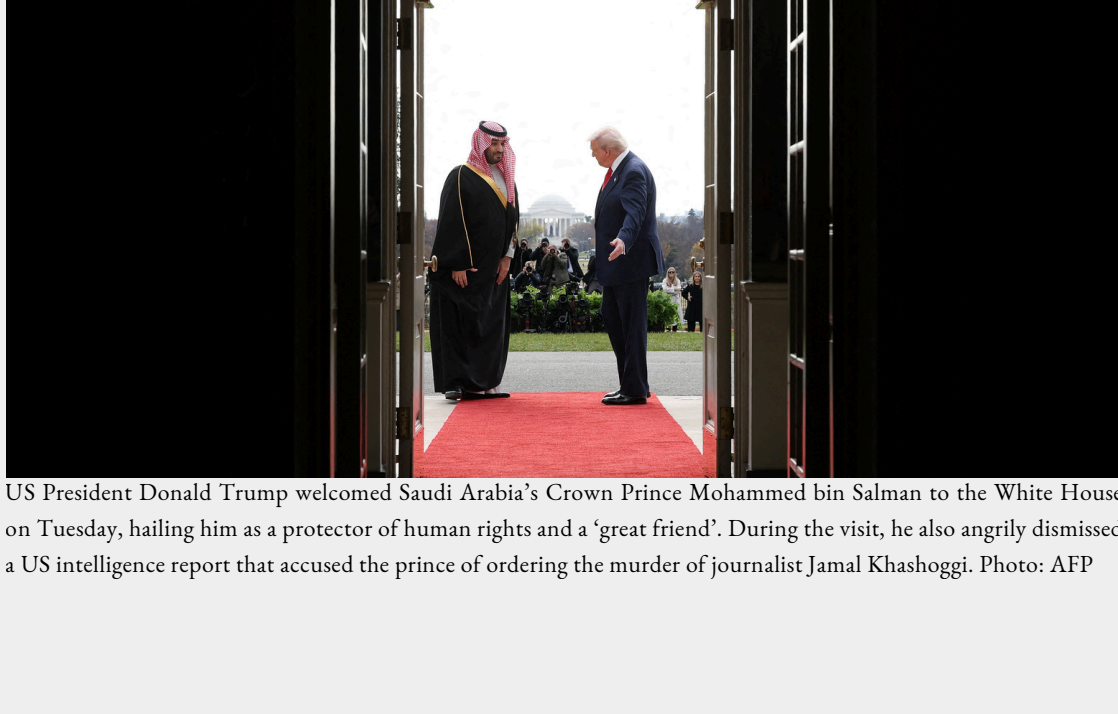


# MEIWeekly.



US President Donald Trump welcomed Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to the White House on Tuesday, hailing him as a protector of human rights and a 'great friend'. During the visit, he also angrily dismissed a US intelligence report that accused the prince of ordering the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** Building on her insights at MEI's Annual Conference, Executive Director of the Berghof Foundation Chris Coulter explores Europe's recalibration in the Middle East — from Gulf engagement to Gaza and Iran — amid the war in Ukraine and shifting US priorities. Read it [here](#).

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

### Trump Designates Saudi Arabia as Major Non-Nato Ally

During his Washington visit, MBS said Saudi investment in the US would rise to US\$1 trillion after Mr Trump floated the idea. While both sides signed a strategic defence agreement, MBS reiterated that joining the Abraham Accords would require progress towards a Palestinian state.

### UN Security Council Adopts American Peace Plan for Gaza

The United Nations (UN) Security Council's vote marked a diplomatic victory for the Trump administration, whose resolution called for an International Stabilisation Force to enter, demilitarise, and govern Gaza. Russia and China — both able to veto — chose to abstain.



Among the next steps would be naming members of the "Board of Peace", the body responsible for overseeing the full transition in Gaza, and clarifying under whose authority the stabilisation forces would operate. Photo: AFP

### Iran Withdraws from Deal to Let Nuclear Inspections Resume

This decision came hours after a UN watchdog agency demanded information about the status of Tehran's enriched uranium stock and its nuclear sites, which Israel bombed in June. Some experts now believe that Iran is working on a new enrichment site known as Pickax Mountain.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture 2025

How far has Saudi Arabia come since the launch of Vision 2030? From diversifying its economy beyond oil to empowering women in the workforce to hosting major entertainment events, Riyadh has made remarkable strides across multiple sectors. With his unique vantage point as Adviser to the Saudi Foreign Minister, this year's distinguished speaker, Mr Mohammed Khalid Alyahya (pictured), will unpack Saudi Arabia's sweeping reforms, and how the Kingdom's next phase presents opportunities for global investors. This event will be held in person and online via Zoom on Monday, 1 December 2025, from 4pm – 5:30pm (SGT). Less than two weeks to go - get your spot [here](#) before seats are gone.

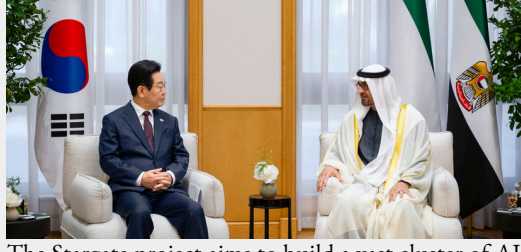


This lecture will also highlight how investors and firms from abroad can engage with the Kingdom's increasingly open business environment. Photo: MEI

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### South Korea Agrees to Join UAE's Stargate Project

During South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's (pictured with UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed) state visit to Abu Dhabi, the two countries issued a joint declaration to deepen cooperation across key strategic areas, including national defence, K-Pop, medical services, and biotechnology. Both nations also agreed to jointly pursue nuclear energy exports to third countries.



The Stargate project aims to build a vast cluster of AI data centers across the UAE, in coordination with the US government. Photo: X / Mohamed Bin Zayed

### Turkey Set to Host COP31

The 31st edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP31) climate meeting is now expected to be held in Turkey after Australia dropped its bid to host the event. Neither country had initially been willing to concede, but Australia later agreed to back Ankara's bid in exchange for its minister chairing the talks, following negotiations at COP30 in Brazil.



In an interview, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called the compromise with Turkey an "outstanding result". Photo: Australia Presidency Website

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