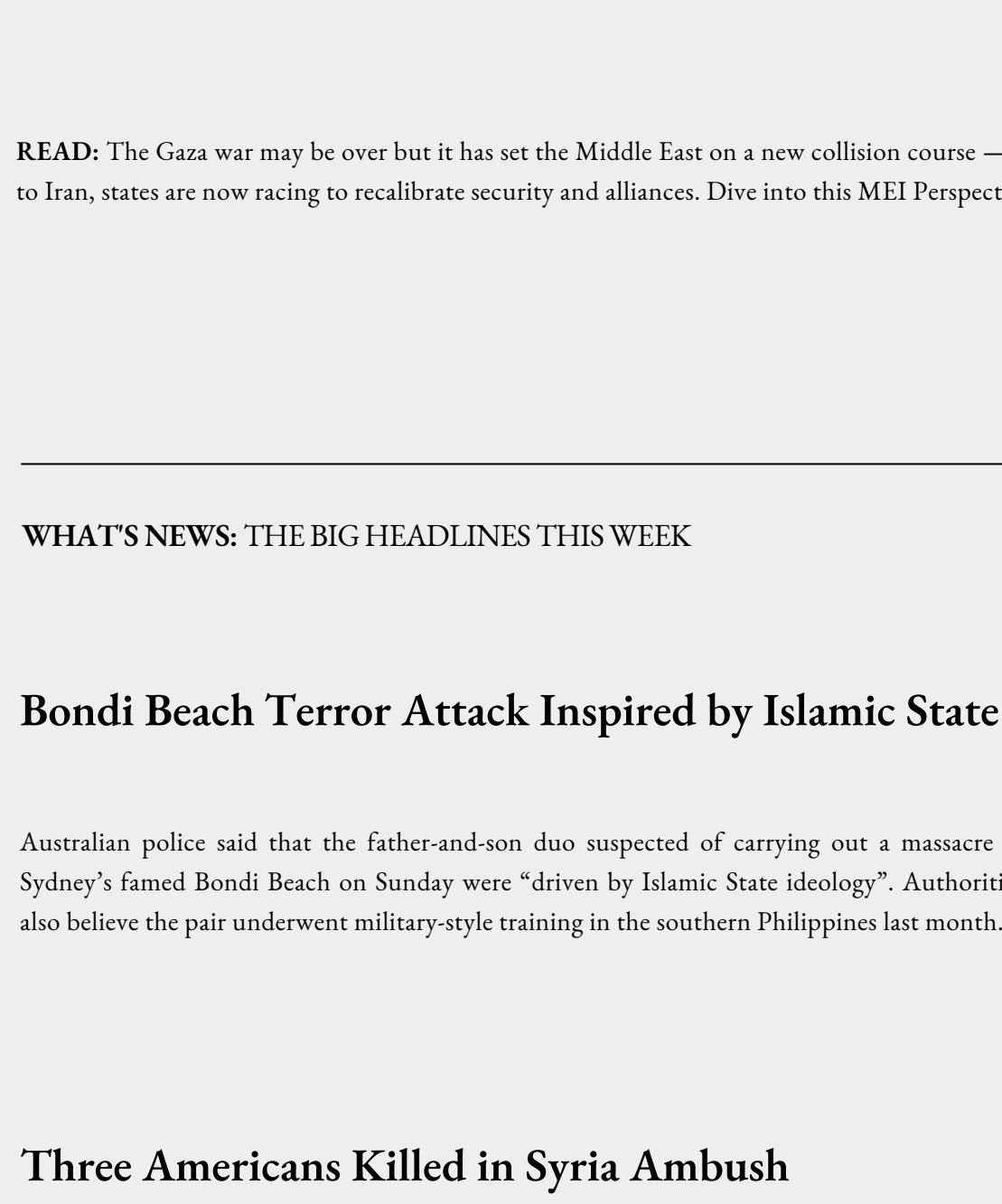


MEIWeekly.



15 people were killed in a terror attack targeting Australia's Jewish community at a Hanukkah event on Sunday at Sydney's Bondi Beach. Authorities found two Islamic State flags in a car used by the alleged father-and-son perpetrators: Sajid Akram, 50, who was shot dead by police, and his son Naveed, 24, who was arrested. Photo: AFP

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

READ: The Gaza war may be over but it has set the Middle East on a new collision course — from Qatar to Iran, states are now racing to recalibrate security and alliances. Dive into this MEI Perspective [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Bondi Beach Terror Attack Inspired by Islamic State

Australian police said that the father-and-son duo suspected of carrying out a massacre at Sydney's famed Bondi Beach on Sunday were "driven by Islamic State ideology". Authorities also believe the pair underwent military-style training in the southern Philippines last month.

This attack demonstrated how Syria's new regime continues to grapple with extremist elements, even within its own army. It was also an echo of the so-called green-on-blue attacks that US forces suffered in Afghanistan. Photo: AFP

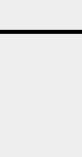
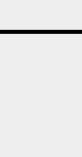
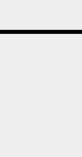
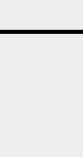
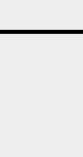
LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Israel Approves US\$37 Billion Deal to Deliver Gas to Egypt

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the US\$37 billion deal, allowing Chevron and other energy firms to expand their exports to neighbouring Egypt. Mr Netanyahu added that the deal would strengthen Tel Aviv's regional position, generate roughly US\$18 billion in revenue, and help keep energy prices affordable for Israeli consumers.



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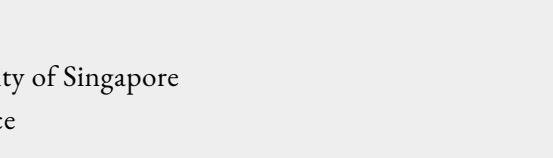
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The US has been trying to keep Saudi Arabia outside its alliance with China. Photo: AFP

to counterbalance its ties with China. Photo: AFP

Beijing and Riyadh Pledge Deeper Hi-tech Cooperation

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that the Kingdom will deepen cooperation with Beijing in oil, new energy, AI, and high technology to bring "greater benefits" to both countries, according to China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The pledge comes at a time when Riyadh is facing growing scrutiny from the Washington over its technology cooperation with Beijing.

The US has been trying to keep Saudi Arabia outside its alliance with China. Photo: AFP

to counterbalance its ties with China. Photo: AFP

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