

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.

Three Americans Killed in Syria Ambush

US President Donald Trump vowed "very serious" retribution against those responsible for the attack, which killed two soldiers and a civilian interpreter. Syria said that the attacker had been part of the nation's Internal Security service but was due for dismissal over his extremist views.



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

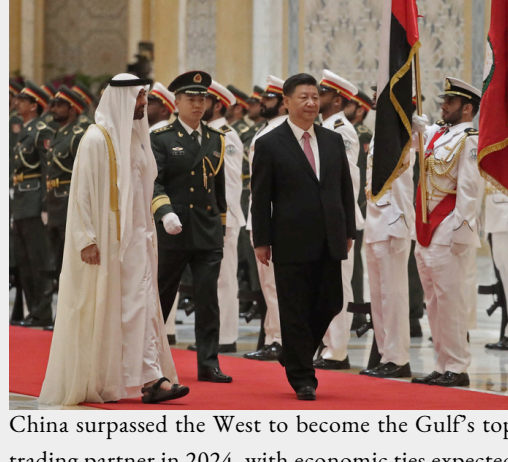
Saudi Forces Threaten Airstrikes Against STC Forces

Around 20,000 Saudi-backed forces gathered on Yemen's border as the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) faced pressure to withdraw. The STC said it would not obey these demands to withdraw despite being told it could face airstrikes after its huge territorial gains.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

[ICYMI] Narratives of Sino-Middle Eastern Futures

Missed this book talk? MEI hosted the authors of 'Narratives of Sino-Middle Eastern Futures' to examine whether the region is moving towards a post-American Chinese hegemony or reaching the limits of transactional ties. Drawing on multilingual sources and thin constructivism, the discussion encompassed Saudi, Syrian, and Chinese elite narratives on the Middle Eastern order and Beijing's role within it. You can now catch the video of the event or the podcast [here](#).



China surpassed the West to become the Gulf's top trading partner in 2024, with economic ties expected to grow further in the coming years. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

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

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved the country's "largest gas deal", a US\$37 billion agreement 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.



"This deal greatly strengthens Israel's status as a regional energy power and contributes to stability in our region", added the Israeli premier. Photo: AFP

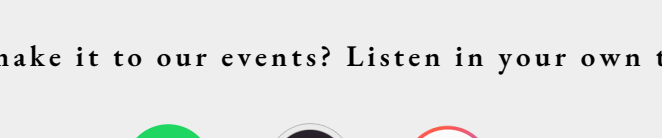
Beijing and Riyadh Pledge Deeper Hi-tech Cooperation

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.

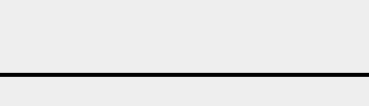


The US has been trying to keep Saudi Arabia onside to counterbalance its ties with China. Photo: AFP

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