

MEIWeekly.



Earlier this week, United States President Donald Trump urged Iranians to keep protesting and said help was on the way, in the clearest sign yet that America may be preparing for military action against Tehran. Mr Trump added that he had cancelled all meetings with Iranian officials until the “senseless killing” of protesters stopped. Photo: AFP

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

READ: What if American power today is no longer about shaping order — only about enforcing it? Venezuela offers a clue, and Iran may be next. Read the latest MEI Perspective [here](#).

WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Israel, Arab Nations Ask Trump to Refrain from Attacking Iran

On the same day Mr Trump said Iran had stopped killing protesters and halted executions, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged him to postpone any plans for an American military attack. Israeli and Arab officials fear Tehran could retaliate by striking their countries.

Gaza ‘Board of Peace’ Forms Amid Uncertainty

On Thursday, Mr Trump announced the creation of a Gaza “board of peace”, a key phase two element of a US-backed plan to end the war. This move followed the formation of a 15-member Palestinian technocratic committee to manage the day-to-day governance of Gaza.



The second phase remains clouded by unresolved issues. For Palestinians, the central concern is Israel’s full military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, while Hamas has refused to publicly commit to a full disarmament. Photo: AFP

Somalia Annuls All UAE Agreements

Somalia’s federal government announced the cancellation of all port management and security cooperation agreements with the UAE, accusing it of undermining the country’s sovereignty. Experts say Israel’s recent recognition of Somaliland formed the backdrop to this decision.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

China’s Digital Silk Road in the Middle East

Explore the growing influence of Chinese tech firms in the Middle East — especially the Gulf — and why the region has become a focal point for Beijing’s digital ambitions in this MEI webinar. The discussion will highlight how companies like Huawei and Alibaba are expanding through cloud infrastructure, AI applications, data-centre investments, and partnerships with local governments and businesses. To sign up, click [here](#).



The webinar will also examine Beijing’s strategic goals, including securing long-term connectivity and setting digital standards in the Middle East. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Pakistan-Saudi-Turkey Defence Deal in Pipeline

Islamabad, Riyadh, and Ankara have prepared a draft defence agreement after nearly a year of talks, Pakistan’s Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj (pictured) said, a signal that they could be seeking a bulwark against a flare-up of recent regional violence. He added that the potential deal between the three powers is separate from the bilateral Saudi-Pakistani accord announced last year.



A final consensus between the three states is needed to complete the deal, he added. Photo: Pakistan Ministry of Defence Production Website

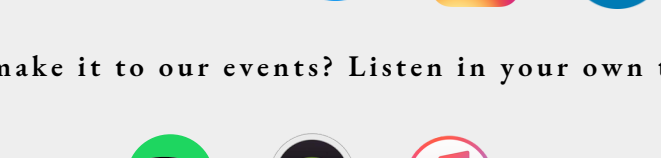
Yemen’s Prime Minister Quits, Replaced by Foreign Minister

Yemen’s Saudi-backed presidential leadership council has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Salem bin Breik and appointed Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani (pictured) as the country’s new premier, state news reported on Thursday. Mr Bin Breik formally submitted his resignation, which was approved by the council, before Mr Zindani was named to form the next Cabinet, the report added.

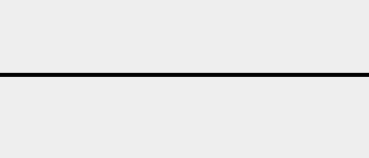


Sanaa has been a source of heightened tensions in recent months between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Photo: AFP

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