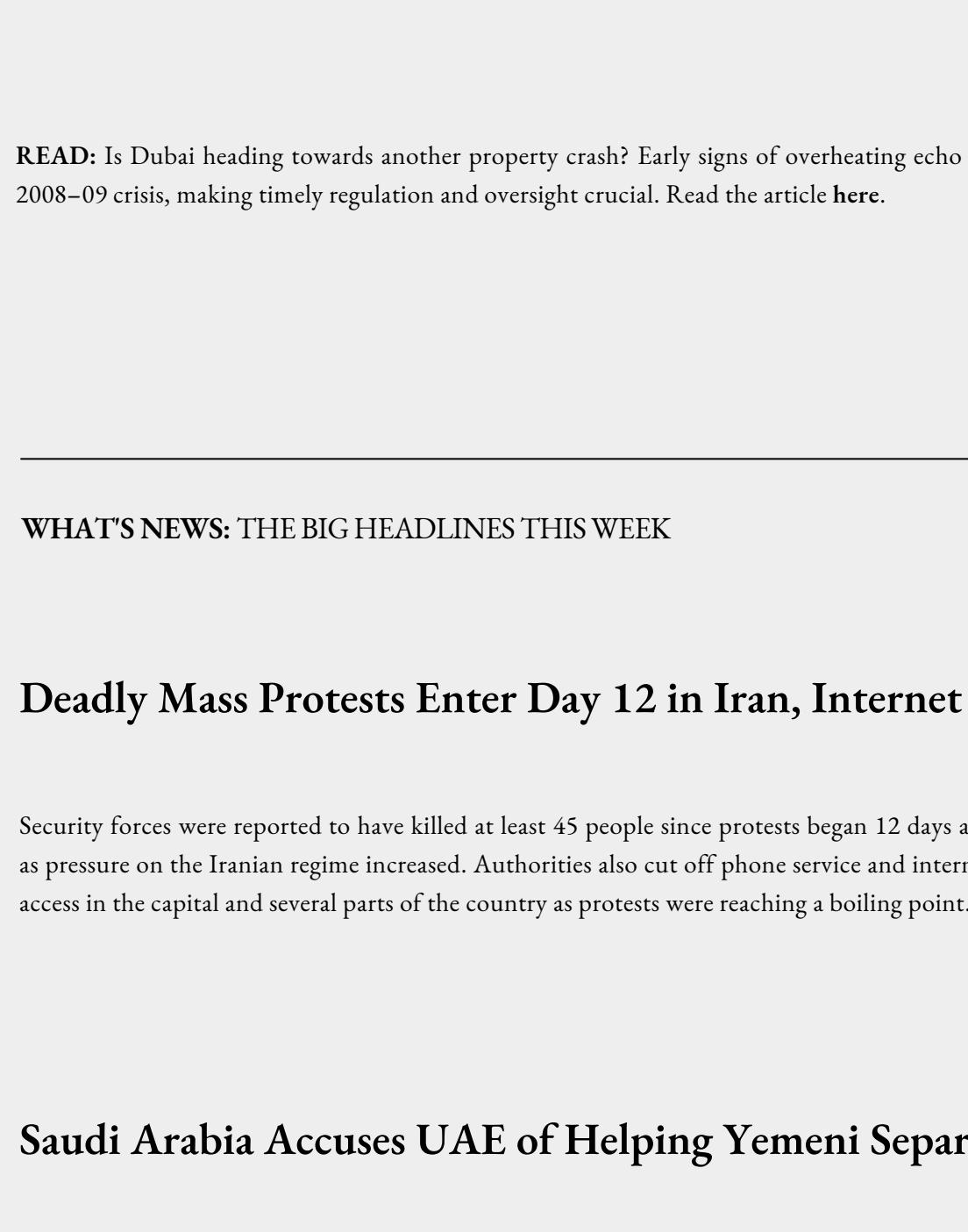


MEIWeekly.



Large groups of protesters swept through Tehran on Thursday, chanting anti-government slogans and setting fires in a display of public discontent not seen in at least three years in Iran. Now in their second week, the protests have spread to all 31 provinces in the nation, driven by anger over the economy and government crackdowns. Photo: AFP

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

READ: Is Dubai heading towards another property crash? Early signs of overheating echo the 2008–09 crisis, making timely regulation and oversight crucial. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Deadly Mass Protests Enter Day 12 in Iran, Internet Cut Off

Security forces were reported to have killed at least 45 people since protests began 12 days ago as pressure on the Iranian regime increased. Authorities also cut off phone service and internet access in the capital and several parts of the country as protests were reaching a boiling point.

Saudi Arabia Accuses UAE of Helping Yemeni Separatist Escape

Saudi intelligence determined that the Southern Transitional Council leader, Aidarous al-Zubaidi, fled Yemen on a boat to Somalia early Wednesday morning and that he took a plane from there to the Emirates. This claim deepened the rift between the regional powerhouses.



On Wednesday, a delegation from the Southern Transitional Council arrived in Riyadh after receiving an invitation for talks about their secession bid. However, Mr al-Zubaidi (pictured) was not among them, despite a Saudi demand that he attend. The delegation became unreachable as soon as they landed there, their colleagues said. Photo: AFP

Syria Declares Ceasefire After Army-Militia Clash

After days of deadly clashes with Kurdish fighters, Syria's defence ministry announced a ceasefire in several neighbourhoods of Aleppo. This violence came as a deal to merge the Kurds' administration and military into the government stalled, with both sides trading blame.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

China's Digital Silk Road in the Middle East

Join MEI for this webinar to understand the growing role of Chinese tech firms in the Middle East — especially the Gulf — and why it has become a key arena for Beijing's digital ambitions. Drawing on recent research, this online event will explore how companies such as Huawei and Alibaba have expanded their presence in the region's digital ecosystems through cloud infrastructure, artificial intelligence applications, data-centre investments, and partnerships with local governments and firms. To sign up, click [here](#).



This webinar will also explore Beijing's broader strategic considerations, including its interest in securing long-term connectivity and establishing digital standards in the Middle East. Photo: AFP

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