

# MEIWeekly.



On Wednesday, Israel struck Iran's South Pars gas field — the world's largest — prompting Tehran to retaliate by hitting energy sites in Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. This escalation pushed oil and gas prices higher and angered US President Donald Trump, who said he was unaware of Israel's strike and warned Iran to stop its attacks. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** Despite headlines touting international support and billion-dollar pledges, the reality on the ground in Syria tells a different story: political fractures and a fragile economy have left the nation in a state of "negative stabilisation". Read the article [here](#).

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

### Gulf States Ask US to 'Finish' Iran for Good

While the Gulf Arab states did not ask Washington to go to war with Tehran, many are now urging it not to stop short after bearing the brunt of Iran's retaliatory attacks. Sources also reported that America is pressing the Gulf states to join the war against the Islamic Republic.

### Netanyahu Says Israel will Stop Attacks on Gas Field

After Iran intensified its attacks on Gulf oil and gas facilities in retaliation — rattling markets — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tel Aviv would hold off further strikes on Tehran's South Pars field. This came at the request of US President Donald Trump, he added.



Qatar reported extensive damage to its Ras Laffan liquefied natural gas facility, caused by Iranian missiles. Two oil refineries in Kuwait and gas operations in Abu Dhabi also were targeted by Tehran, authorities said. Photo: AFP

### Top Security Official Resigns in Protest Against American War

Joe Kent, who was serving as the US Director of the National Counterterrorism Centre, contradicted the administration's basis for launching the war. He said that "Iran posed no imminent threat to the US and it was clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel".

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### Gulf States Amid the Iran War

Since the start of the US-Israel war in Iran, the Gulf states have faced an unprecedented wave of missile and drone attacks by the Iranian regime, shattering the image of security the monarchies sought to project. With the war's outcome uncertain, the Gulf nations are having to confront multiple challenges. Join MEI's exclusive and timely webinar with regional experts to explore these challenges and the possible trajectory of the Gulf states during and after the war. This event will be conducted online via Zoom on Wednesday, 1 April 2026, from 3:30pm to 4:45pm (SGT). To sign up, click [here](#).



The Gulf nations have been trying to diversify away from their oil-based economies but the war in Iran has seriously set these plans back now. Photo: AFP

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### EU Demands Reopening of Strait of Hormuz

European leaders demanded the re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz and a moratorium on strikes on water and energy infrastructure in the Middle East as they met in Brussels to grapple with rising energy prices caused by the war. All heads of the 27 European Union (EU) nations known collectively as the European Council issued a joint statement on Thursday calling for the stabilisation of energy shipments and "de-escalation and maximum restraint" from warring parties.



Some European leaders warned that they will not allow the continent to be "blackmailed" into joining the US and Israel's military campaign. Photo: AFP

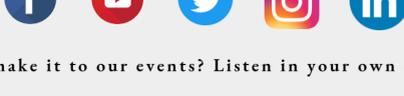
### Saudi Arabia Reserves Right to Military Action Against Iran: FM

After Riyadh was targeted by Iranian ballistic missiles, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud said that the nation reserves the right to act militarily against Iran and that any trust with Tehran has been shattered. In the harshest comments to come out of the Kingdom in nearly three weeks of war, he accused Iran of premeditated hostile actions against its neighbours, both directly and via an array of regional proxies, which he urged Tehran to rein in.



"This pressure from Iran will backfire politically and morally", he added. Photo:AFP

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