

MEIWeekly.



Earlier this week, reports claimed that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia secretly carried out a series of air strikes against Iran in April during the US-Israeli war against Tehran. Analysts say that the unconfirmed raids were likely clandestine retaliatory strikes following Tehran's drone and missile attacks on Gulf infrastructure. Photo: AFP

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

READ: Markets may be pricing in a quick end to US-Israeli war with Iran but the reality could prove far messier — from damaged infrastructure and disrupted shipping routes to economic shocks that may linger longer than expected. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Saudi Arabia and UAE Carried Out 'Covert Attacks' on Iran

Both Gulf nations separately carried out strikes on Tehran in retaliation for attacks conducted against them during the war in the Middle East, US officials said. The strikes underscored how both monarchies were becoming more assertive in defending their territory against Tehran.

Netanyahu Says He 'Secretly Visited' Abu Dhabi During War

Just hours after the statement was released by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, the UAE denied the visit had taken place. The claim and denial underscored both the growing closeness between the two countries and the sensitivity of their relationship.



Mr Netanyahu's office did not specify when the visit took place, how he travelled, or what he discussed with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed but said that this visit "marked a historic breakthrough in relations". Photo: AFP

Kuwait Foils IRGC Infiltration Operation

Kuwait City arrested four men it accused of being members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) after they allegedly tried to infiltrate Bubiyan Island by sea and injured its soldier. Iran denied these accusations and demanded the immediate release of the four men.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ICMYI: Gulf States Amid the Iran War

With tensions in the Gulf still simmering — and reports of some regional states striking back at Iran — the Middle East's security landscape is once again in focus. Revisit this webinar for a recap that provides timely context on how recent developments are reshaping dynamics, unpacking the Gulf's evolving vulnerabilities, shifting deterrence calculations, and what these trends could mean for the region's future trajectory. Watch the video or listen to the podcast [here](#).



For long, the Gulf nations have been trying to diversify away from their oil-based economies but the Iran war has forced them to reboot. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

New Lebanon-Israel Talks Underway

Beirut and Tel Aviv began a new round of peace talks in Washington as their fragile ceasefire — still technically in place despite hundreds killed in Israeli strikes — approached its expiry. Meanwhile, Israel said it was targeting Hezbollah positions in southern and eastern Lebanon after issuing evacuation warnings to residents in several towns and villages. The Israeli military also said a Hezbollah drone crashed inside its territory, injuring several civilians.



Thursday's meeting will be the third round of talks between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations. Photo: AFP

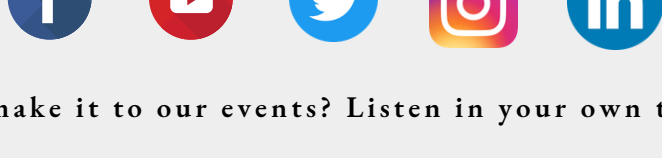
Can Qatar's Energy Sector Make a Comeback Soon?

Iranian strikes and a blockade have paralysed Doha's gas sector, creating a technical bottleneck likely to disrupt exports for years. The country's liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry has been severely affected since war broke out in the Middle East nearly 11 weeks ago, with damage to critical infrastructure compounding operational strain. Even undamaged facilities have been forced offline due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has cut off the movement of fuel and disrupted supply chains.



Qatar cannot simply restart production until it secures commitments from shipping lines to return for new cargoes. Photo: Canva

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