

MEIWeekly.



Reports this week claimed that the United States and Israel planned to install former Iranian hard-line president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to power in Tehran as part of an effort at regime change. An Israeli strike early in the war was designed to free him from house arrest but the plan quickly went awry, according to US officials. 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

Early War Goal Was to Install Former Iranian President

Mr Ahmadinejad was injured on the war's first day by an Israeli strike at his home in Tehran that was designed to free him, US officials revealed. The failed effort exposed how both the US and Israel misjudged and gambled on a risky plan to engineer a leadership change in Tehran.

Israeli Minister Taunts Pro-Palestinian Activists in Video

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir posted a video of himself taunting detained pro-Palestinian activists while they were handcuffed and forced to kneel down, drawing outrage both abroad and at home — including from his own ally Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



In the minute-long video released by the minister on social media, one of the detainees can be seen being manhandled by police officers while the Israeli national anthem was heard playing in the background. Photo: AFP

Turkish Court Ruling Removes Head of Opposition Party

In the latest blow to challengers of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the court effectively ousted the main opposition leader Ozgur Ozel. The ruling could deepen the disarray and infighting within the opposition camp while strengthening Mr Erdogan's hold on power.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

China, Energy and Geopolitics during the Middle East Crisis

Amid ongoing instability in the Middle East, China's evolving role in the region has become a subject of growing analytical interest. MEI, in collaboration with Cambridge MENAF, is bringing you this exclusive webinar to examine how Beijing is navigating challenges brought on by the Iran war, and what they signal for energy security, great power competition, and the emerging multipolar order. This event will be held via Zoom on Thursday, 11 June 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (SGT). To sign up, click [here](#).



Beijing is positioning President Xi Jinping as the 'adult in the room' against an erratic new America. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

United Kingdom Agrees Trade Deal with Six Gulf States

Britain said on Wednesday it had secured a trade deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council worth US\$5 billion a year in the long run, deepening economic ties with allies in a region dealing with the fallout from the Iran war. The government said that cars, aerospace, electronics and food and drink would be among the sectors to benefit, with cereals, cheddar cheese, chocolate and butter all becoming tariff-free.



It is also the first deal between a G7 country and the GCC bloc. Photo: X

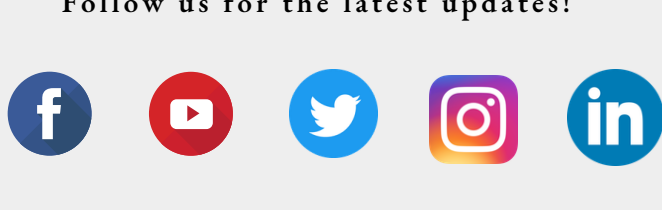
New UAE Oil Pipeline Bypassing Hormuz 50 Per Cent Complete

The UAE's new crude pipeline bypassing the Strait of Hormuz is about 50 per cent complete, the head of state-owned giant Adnoc said on Wednesday. He added that global oil flows may take at least four months to recover to 80 per cent of pre-conflict levels after the Iran war ends.



Tehran has largely closed the Strait of Hormuz to most ships, allowing only its own vessels through. Photo: Canva

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