

MEIWeekly.



US and Iranian negotiators are reportedly nearing an agreement on a 60-day memorandum of understanding to extend the ceasefire and launch negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme. If confirmed, the agreement would offer Mr Trump a way out of a war that has pushed up gas prices and grown deeply unpopular at home. Photo: AFP

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

READ: MEI's latest Perspective analyses how Saudi Arabia's domestic transformation under Vision 2030 may be quietly reshaping its regional and foreign policy. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

US Claims Deal to Extend Iran Ceasefire Reached

According to US officials, both sides reached a tentative agreement to open the Strait of Hormuz and begin nuclear talks, though President Donald Trump has yet to approve it. News of this possible deal came after the latest round of tit-for-tat attacks between the two countries.

Netanyahu: Israel to Control 70 Per Cent of Gaza

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu directed Israeli forces to expand their control of the Gaza Strip, ramping up the pressure on Hamas. His announcement came as negotiations on Gaza's future stalled over the militant group's refusal to disarm and Israel's nearly daily strikes there.



Analysts say a more aggressive stance in Gaza could benefit Mr Netanyahu, who faces an uphill battle for re-election later this year, by shifting Israeli public attention away from increasingly grim developments elsewhere. Photo: AFP

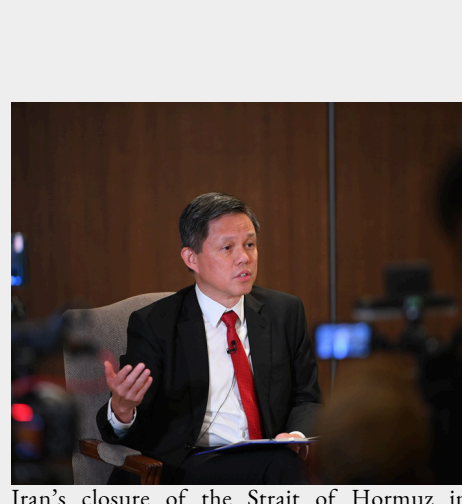
Trump's Call to Expand Abraham Accords Baffles Middle East

In a social media post, he wrote that it "should be mandatory" for more countries to recognise Israel as part of a deal to end the war with Iran. Regional analysts were left wondering whether they understood the rationale behind his proposal as some Gulf nations signalled "no interest".

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

MEI Annual Conference 2026

Singapore's Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing is set to open MEI's Annual Conference on 23 June. This year's event will focus on the war in Iran and its far-reaching global implications, unpacking how the crisis is reshaping regional dynamics and international responses. It will also examine what a post-war scenario could mean for Singapore, Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. This conference will be held both in-person and online at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom and Zoom from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (SGT). Seats are limited so sign up now by clicking [here](#).



Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation for US-Israeli attacks hit the Southeast Asian region hardest. Photo: Twitter

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Team Melli Still Awaiting Visas for Fifa World Cup

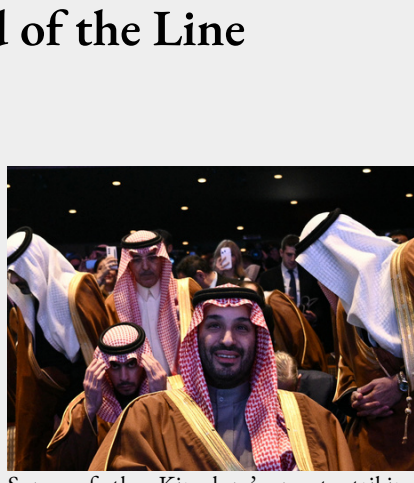
Iran's national football team still lack US visas and are not competing in the tournament on "equal terms" because of their difficulty in training ahead of the competition, the country's ambassador to Mexico said. The ambassador told a news conference that "the country to the north" – referring to the US – had not followed through on its responsibility of hosting the Iranian team.



"We don't know whether or not they're going to give the players their visas", the ambassador added. Photo: AFP

Saudi Arabia's Spending Reaches End of the Line

With 2030 just four years away, there has been a clear — and perhaps inevitable — retrenchment. Part of this is driven by financial pressures, as a sharp fall in oil prices before the current war in the Middle East eroded even Saudi Arabia's vast wealth. Although prices have since surged due to the conflict, the uncertainty it created is likely to continue constraining both revenue and spending. Meanwhile, the influx of foreign investment needed to sustain these highly ambitious, capital-intensive projects has not materialised at the scale Riyadh had anticipated.



Some of the Kingdom's most striking projects are now being watered down, put on hold or even abandoned. Photo:AFP

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