

# MEIWeekly.

*To Our Readers,*

Even in the best of times, you would probably need your head on a swivel to keep up with the dizzying turn of events in the Middle East. In turbulent times — such as the one we are in now — even that is not enough. But help is at hand. Starting this month, I will curate MEI’s best work in a one-stop format that allows you to get up to speed on analyses and insights to keep ahead of the curve on developments in the region. In this month’s edition, you’ll find expert views on the predicament the Gulf states are in, an exploration of Saudi foreign policy, and the downsides of regime change in Iran, among others. You can find my picks [here](#). I hope you’ll find them useful. As always, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram to get the latest, and get a heads-up on upcoming seminars and other events.

*Michelle Teo*  
MEI Executive Director



United States President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian remotely signed a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday meant to end the Middle East war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its uranium in return for economic relief. Mr Trump inked the deal at the Palace of Versailles following a G7 summit. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** While a United States–Iran memorandum of understanding (MOU) has delivered a much-needed reprieve, MEI Chairman Joseph Liow notes that several unresolved issues suggest the most consequential chapter of the crisis may still lie ahead. Find his comments [here](#).

**READ:** Research Scholar at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at The Australian National University Jesse Marks argues that while Iran may have claimed victory over America, it now faces a harder battle for legitimacy at home. Read the article [here](#).

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

### Last Chance to Get In on MEI’s Annual Conference

MEI’s flagship event takes place next Tuesday and you won’t want to miss it. Singapore’s Coordinating Minister for Public Services and Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing is set to open the conference before three expert panels assess the realities of a post-war Middle East.

### US and Iran Sign Initial Deal to End War

US President Donald Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a permanent peace deal. This agreement reopens the Strait of Hormuz, establishes a US\$300 billion ‘reconstruction’ fund for Iran, and lifts all US sanctions.



The issue of Iran’s nuclear programme will be negotiated over a extendable 60-day window. President Trump warned that the US would “bomb the hell” out of Iran if it violates the terms or fails to reach a final deal. Photo: AFP

### Netanyahu and Allies Fume Over Trump’s MOU

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised his nation “total victory” in Iran but had to settle for Mr Trump’s deal with Tehran and frequent criticism. Netanyahu-aligned media slammed the agreement and accused Mr Trump’s team of selling out Israel for financial gain.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### MEI Annual Conference 2026

An initial deal to end the war has been signed, but the global fallout may be far from over. As world leaders have rightly warned, the long-term consequences will run deep — from sky-high inflation to volatile energy markets that test global resilience. Across three expert panels, the MEI Annual Conference deliver a critical, forward-looking look at this new reality, evaluating how the post-war landscape will permanently alter world trade, stability and security in the long run. This flagship event will be held both in person at the Orchard Hotel Ballroom and online via Zoom from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (SGT). Last call to sign up [here](#).

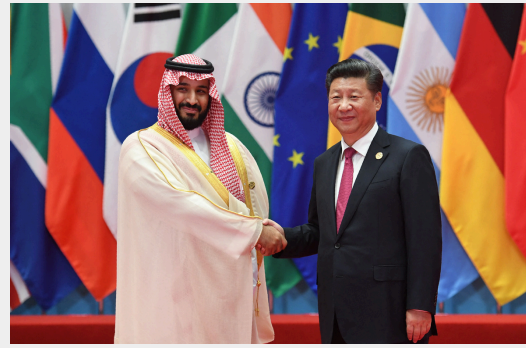


Iran’s closure of the Strait of Hormuz during the war showed how easily maritime waterways can be weaponised, jolting global oil markets. Photo: AFP

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Riyadh Inks Construction, Smart-city Deals with Chinese Firms

During a visit to Shenzhen, Saudi Arabia’s Housing Minister Majid Al-Hogail signed US\$507 million in housing and construction agreements with partners in Beijing, including China State Construction Engineering. Mr Al-Hogail stated that these urban development projects will accelerate Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030 strategy, leveraging Chinese expertise to drive the Kingdom’s economic diversification away from oil and build new growth sectors in the nation.



Saudi officials are increasingly looking to Chinese technology firms to support the planning, operation and management of their future cities. Photo: AFP

### Turkey in Race to ‘Stay Alive’ in Fifa World Cup

Turkey heads into tomorrow’s World Cup Group D clash with Paraguay with little margin for error. After an opening defeat against Australia, the team is playing catch-up in the race for the knockout rounds. Another loss would leave the nation facing a daunting final-round scenario, likely relying on other results across the 48-team tournament to stay alive — a disappointing position for a side tipped to be the US’ strongest challenger in the group upon returning to the World Cup for the first time in 24 years.



Turkey defied the odds at the 2002 Fifa World Cup by pulling off a stunning run to secure a third place finish. Photo: AFP

Follow us for the latest updates!



Can’t make it to our events? Listen in your own time!

