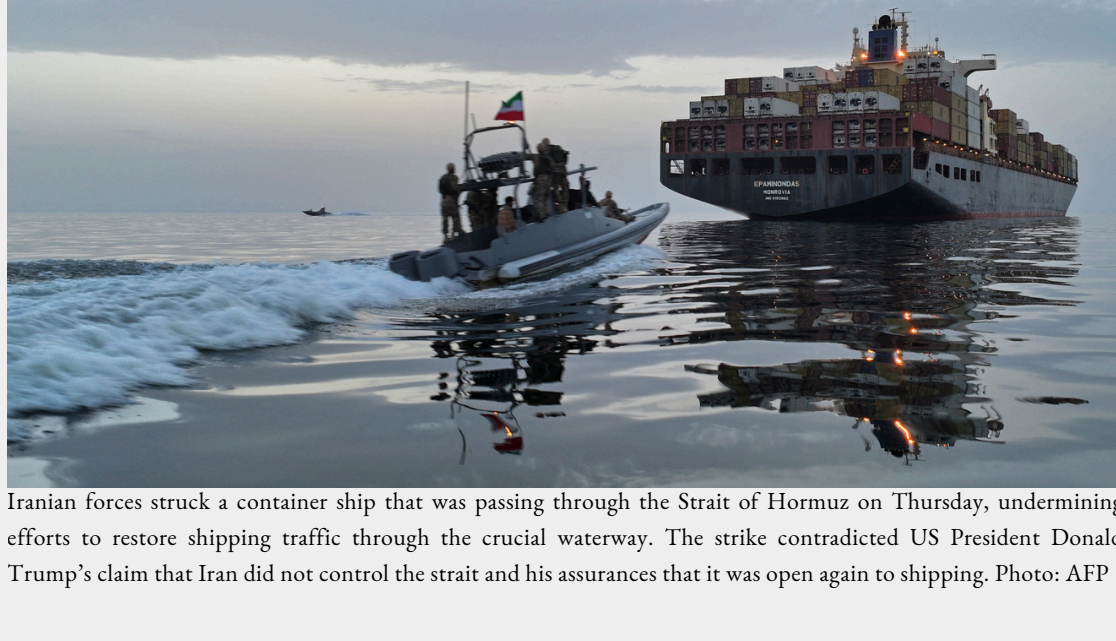


MEIWeekly.



Iranian forces struck a container ship that was passing through the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, undermining efforts to restore shipping traffic through the crucial waterway. The strike contradicted US President Donald Trump's claim that Iran did not control the strait and his assurances that it was open again to shipping. Photo: AFP

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

READ: If you weren't in on MEI's Annual Conference 2026 or need a recap of key discussions, this Perspective piece could be your perfect read: from the consequences of the war in Iran to the future of Gulf security and long-term implications for Asia. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Iran Strikes Ship in Strait of Hormuz

The attack came hours after Tehran, demonstrating its hold over the strait, warned ships that the only route through the vital pathway for oil and natural gas was through its waters. Many ships were reported to be using a route on the southern side of the strait, hugging the Omani coast.

Rubio Seeks to Reassure Gulf Arab Partners

Seeking to ease Gulf Arab leaders' concerns over a preliminary US-Iran deal that left some of their key issues unresolved, Secretary of State Marco Rubio assured them that Washington would protect their interests as it pursues a final settlement with Tehran to end the Middle East war.



Some Gulf Arab states were reported to be frustrated that the preliminary deal did not address Iran's missile or drone programmes, an omission that fuelled a broader reassessment of their relationship with the White House. Photo: AFP

Israel Says It Has Trapped Hezbollah Fighters

The Israeli military says thousands of its troops have surrounded an underground Hezbollah fortress beneath the hills of southern Lebanon, trapping dozens of militants inside. Officials in Tel Aviv say that they believe that these trapped fighters are running out of food and water.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ICYMI: MEI Annual Conference 2026

At MEI's Annual Conference, three expert panels examined the war's immediate consequences and how its aftermath could reshape Singapore, Asia, and the wider world. The discussions also explored broader geopolitical shifts, including how US-China rivalry could play out, the Gulf states' realignment, and the long-term implications for the global economy after the war. Alongside these themes, the panels assessed impacts on maritime security, energy markets, and overall regional stability in an increasingly uncertain international environment. To watch the full event or to get a recap of discussions you missed, click [here](#).



Singapore's Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing opened the conference, in conversation with MEI Chairman Joseph Liow. Photo: MEI

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Iraq Warns it Might Leave Opec if Quota Not Raised

Baghdad is considering leaving the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) if the producer group does not allow it to significantly increase output, sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters. The prospect of Iraq leaving would deal a serious blow to the oil cartel, which has already seen the United Arab Emirates walk away less than two months ago. Iraq relies on oil for the bulk of its revenue, which has been slashed since the Iran war effectively blocked exports through the Strait of Hormuz.



Baghdad is the group's second-largest producer after Saudi Arabia and one of its five founding members. Photo: AFP

Cape Verde Match is a Final for Green Falcons: Saudi Officials

Few expected Riyadh to remain in contention for a direct place in the Round of 32 heading into the final matchday of the 2026 Fifa World Cup. Victory is a must for Saudi Arabia if they are to reach the knockout stage for the first time since 1994. Saudi Arabia held Uruguay to a draw, while Cape Verde stunned Spain by earning a point before holding Uruguay again, leaving all four teams with something to play for on the final matchday.



"The players are treating this like a final", reports from the Saudi Arabia team camp said. Photo: AFP

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