

# MEI Weekly.



United States President Donald Trump continued his dizzying pattern of alternating between military threats and peace claims by warning on 11 June that America would hit Tehran “very hard” and seize its main oil hub, Kharg Island. He abruptly reversed course just hours later, claiming instead that a peace deal with Iran was close. Photo: AFP

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

**READ:** In *Heard@theSouq*, MEI Research Affiliate Zeynab Malakouti and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Law-NUS Mohammad Hazrati analyse how the Hormuz crisis will reshape energy transition plans and partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa region. Read the article [here](#).

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

### Trump Retracts Threat to Strike Iran Again

He reversed course just hours after issuing threats, calling off strikes planned for Thursday night. He claimed that this decision was based “on the fact that discussions with the Islamic Republic of Iran have been brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved”.

### Israel Continues Bombardment of Lebanon

Lebanese media reported that Israeli airstrikes killed at least 17 people in the south, while Hezbollah launched further attacks on occupying troops. This came amid Iranian leaders demanding that any deal to end their war with America and Tel Aviv must also cover Lebanon.



The White House brokered a ceasefire between the Israeli and Lebanese governments on 16 April but the conflict has continued since then. Iran warned it would resume hostilities if Israel continued to attack Lebanon. Photo: AFP

### Tehran’s Fifa World Cup Tickets Revoked

Iran’s soccer federation said it lost its ability to issue tickets for the 2026 Fifa World Cup, affecting hundreds of its fans who had already made plans to attend matches. The federation did not reveal which entity revoked its ability to distribute tickets but said it blamed the US.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### MEI Annual Conference 2026

How much longer can the world absorb the impact of the war in Iran? With critical maritime corridors threatened, volatile energy markets, and splintering international alliances, global resilience is at its breaking point. For highly exposed hubs like Singapore and the wider Asian region, this is no longer a distant flashpoint — it is an immediate economic and security crisis. Across three expert panels, the MEI Annual Conference will serve as a vital, forward-looking assessment of the post-war reality, dissecting exactly how the conflict will permanently reshape regional commerce and stability. This flagship event 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 running out fast — sign up now by clicking [here](#).



The war has primarily impacted Singapore through soaring energy prices, supply chain disruptions, and imported inflation. Photo: AFP

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### Turkey, Saudi Arabia Agree on Major Regional Railway Line

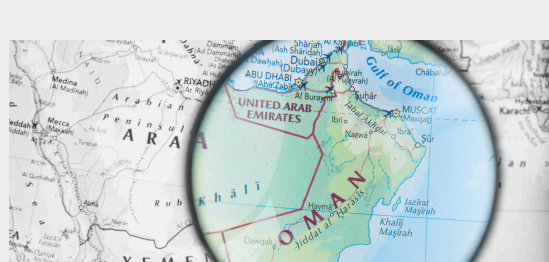
Ankara and Riyadh signed landmark agreements on Tuesday for a new railway line connecting their territories via Syria and Jordan, aiming to eventually extend the route to Oman as an overland commercial corridor bypassing the blockaded Strait of Hormuz. Turkish officials boasted that this project would diminish Israel’s regional influence, while commentators noted the development sidelines Tel Aviv’s competing plans to establish shipping tracks from East Asia to Europe.



A lack of Israeli-Saudi normalisation deal stalled progress on an India-Europe trade corridor passing through Tel Aviv. Photo: X

### Quiet Oman Lands Itself in the Pentagon’s Crosshairs

Long known for its quiet diplomacy, the sleepy sultanate of Oman found itself at odds with the Trump administration and neighbouring Gulf states over its perceived ties to Iran. The friction peaked when Muscat, along with Iran, considered implementing service fees for ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz. For Washington, that was the final straw, provoking a blunt warning from President Trump: “Oman will behave just like everybody else, or we’ll have to blow them up”.



The response from the Omani government, which did not respond to a request for comment, to President Donald Trump’s threat has been silence. Photo: Canva

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