

MEIWeekly.



Less than 24 hours after signing off on a civilian nuclear agreement between the United States and Saudi Arabia, US President Donald Trump said in a social media post that the deal was subject to a new condition: Riyadh must join the Abraham Accords. The condition surprised the Trump administration's own nuclear negotiators. Photo: AFP

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

READ: Iran is playing the long game — but will it pay off? With US costs and casualties mounting, [Heard@theSouq's](#) latest article examines whether Tehran's calculations will eventually force Washington to concede control of the Strait of Hormuz. Read more [here](#).

READ: This article explores how Iran turned memes, AI-generated visuals, and digital storytelling into weapons of influence during its confrontation with the US and Israel. To read, click [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Riyadh Must Recognise Tel Aviv for Nuclear Deal, Says Trump

A day after signing a nuclear deal with Riyadh, President Trump said Riyadh must join the Abraham Accords as a condition for the agreement to go through. The Kingdom has long maintained that normalising relations with Israel would require a pathway to Palestinian statehood.

Iran Rejects US Ceasefire Proposal Presented by Iraqi Leader

Tehran said that it was the only offer on the table and that its government was not interested in a temporary deal that left the question of control over Hormuz unresolved. This failed mediation effort came as Mr Trump was threatening to escalate the war and target Iran's critical infrastructure.



Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi carried the ceasefire proposal to the Islamic Republic after meeting President Trump at the White House. In Tehran, he met President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior political office holders. Photo: AFP

Houthis Claim Strikes on Two Saudi Oil Tankers in Red Sea

It was the first such attack since the rebels announced a blockade targeting Saudi Arabia. In a statement, the Houthis claimed that the Encelia and Layla were violating the blockade and that their strikes caused large fires on both vessels. The attacks pushed oil prices above US\$100 a barrel for the first time since May.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ICYMI: Gulf States Amid the Iran War

The conflict between the US-Israel and Iran marked a turning point for Gulf security, with states across the region facing an unprecedented wave of missile and drone attacks from Tehran. This event brought together regional experts to examine how Gulf governments were managing immediate security challenges, protecting their populations, and responding to the economic disruptions caused by the conflict. Speakers also discussed the longer-term implications for Gulf states as they reassess their security partnerships, domestic reform priorities, and reliance on external powers for regional stability. To watch the event or listen to the podcast, click [here](#).



The UAE was hit the hardest in the conflict as the Islamic Republic targeted the country with over 2,800 missiles and drones. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Israeli Banks Threaten to Cut Off Palestinian Economy

Two Israeli financial institutions that have long served as partners for the 13 Palestinian banks — handling transactions that make possible imports to the West Bank of everything from food and clothing to gasoline, water and electricity — signalled that they may abruptly end those relationships. That would cut the territory's financial tether to Israel — and the outside world. If the Israeli banks proceed to sever ties, it would amount to the imposition of a suffocating commercial blockade.



Israeli banks have long feared that they could be exposed to lawsuits over money laundering or terrorist financing. Photo: AFP

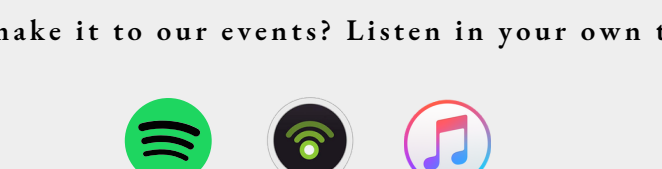
Jordan Stands by American Troop Presence

Though they make Amman a potential Iranian target and even as sirens sound across the country, Jordan has refrained from limiting American presence. Analysts say the country's high dependence on Washington has prevented it from curtailing US military activities. While some other American allies in the region have restricted Washington's ability to base troops on their territory and fly aircraft over their airspace during the war with Iran, US officials say Jordan is not in a position to impose such limits.



The assistance Jordan gets from the White House dates back to the 1950s and is far too large for anyone else to provide, experts say. Photo: AFP

Follow us for the latest updates!



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

