

MEI Weekly.



Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Abbas Araghchi (centre) and Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf (left) were reportedly among officials Israel plotted to kill while Washington was engaged in delicate talks with Tehran this spring on an interim peace deal, according to multiple sources. Photo: AFP

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

READ: While critics remain skeptical of the latest US–Iran MOU, this MEI Souq article explains why it may succeed where past efforts failed. Read the article [here](#).

READ: How can the Middle East prevent another conflict like the Iran war? President of the Emirates Policy Centre Ebtessam Al Ketbi outlines an Emirati vision for a new regional security framework in this MEI Perspective. To read, click [here](#).

READ: Assistant Professor at the Khalifa University in the UAE Li-Chen Sim argues that the Gulf's energy shock from the Iran war holds key lessons for Asia. For more, head [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Washington Believes Israel Plotted to Kill Iranian Negotiators

Fearing an Israeli assassination could derail negotiations and reignite fighting in the Middle East, Washington reportedly went so far as to ask other countries in the region to warn Tehran about the possibility that Tel Aviv might target Mr Abbas Araghchi and Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

Dispute Over Strait Drives a Wedge Into US-Saudi Relations

Riyadh, whose bases and airspace were key to a mission to open the Strait of Hormuz, refused US President Donald Trump's request for access. Washington reportedly had to abort the mission and threatened to delay delivery of interceptors needed by the Gulf nation to counter Iranian attacks.



Saudi Arabia ultimately backed down from its refusal but the White House is now considering reducing its military footprint in the Kingdom as a result of the rift, according to US officials familiar with the planning process. Photo: AFP

Oman Proposes Hormuz Fee Plan

Iran and US-aligned Oman are moving forward with plans to collect fees from ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz despite American objections. If enacted, the move would mark a major shift from the prewar status quo, highlighting how the Iran war has reshaped the Middle East.

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 rest of the 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 Gives Pro-Iran Militias Deadline to Dissolve

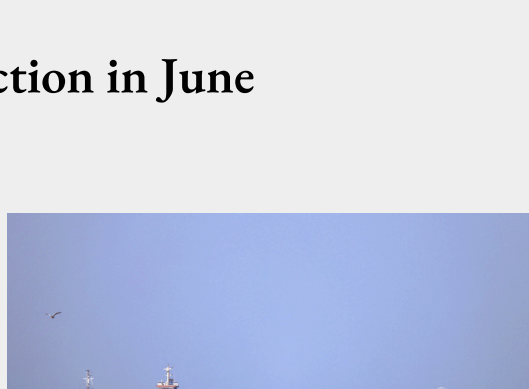
The government in Baghdad has given pro-Iran armed groups until 30 September to disarm, coinciding with the end of the US-led anti-jihadist coalition's mission, Iraqi Spokesman Haidar al-Aboudi said on Monday. The announcement comes ahead of a visit to the US by new Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi as Washington presses Baghdad to ensure the factions surrender their weapons. "After this date, all weapons outside the state framework will be subject to legal redress", Mr Haidar added.



Several powerful Iran-backed armed factions have seen their political and financial clout increase in Iraq over the years. Photo: Canva

Kuwait Sharply Boosts Crude Production in June

Kuwait City's crude oil production rose sharply to 1.65 million barrels per day in June from 580,000 bpd in May, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday, as the Opec (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) member boosts exports through the Gulf following the US-Iran interim peace agreement. The jump in Kuwaiti output adds to signs that Gulf oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz are recovering rapidly following disruption caused by the Iran war.



Stranded cargoes are gradually clearing the Strait of Hormuz as exporters restore production. Photo: AFP

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