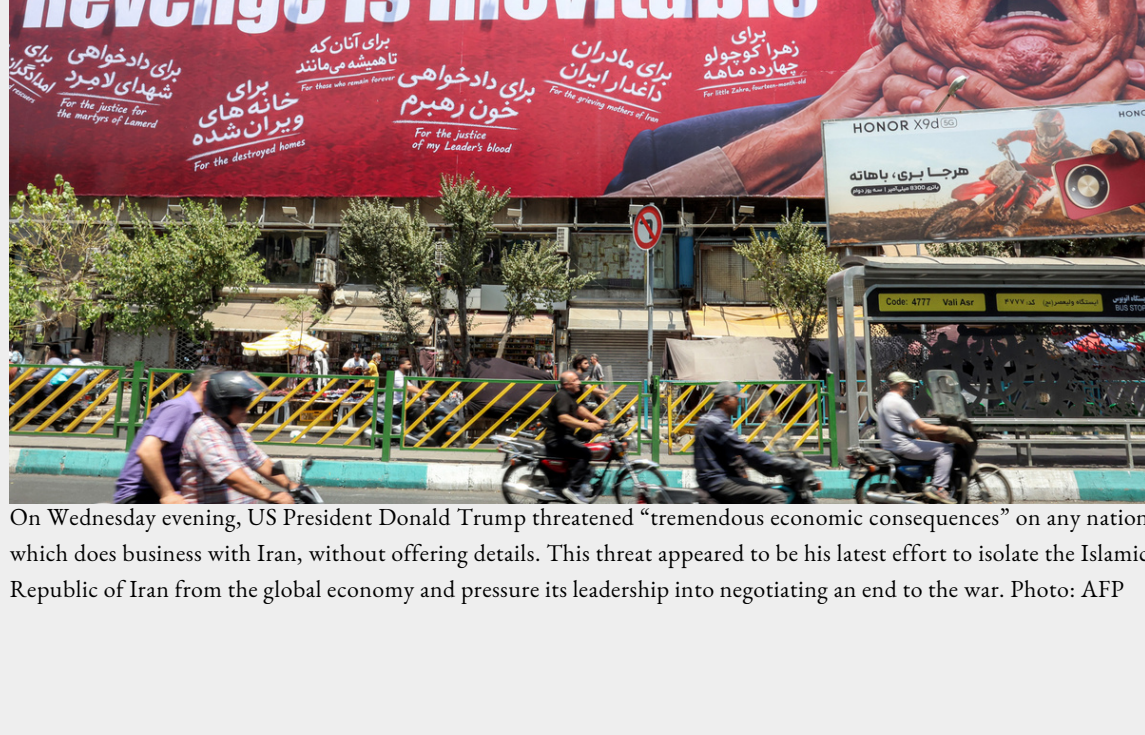


MEIWeekly.



On Wednesday evening, US President Donald Trump threatened “tremendous economic consequences” on any nation which does business with Iran, without offering details. This threat appeared to be his latest effort to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran from the global economy and pressure its leadership into negotiating an end to the war. Photo: AFP

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

READ: This MEI Perspective piece argues that Iran’s strategic land bridge across Syria remains active through informal, sub-state smuggling networks, despite losing its state sponsor in Damascus. To read, click [here](#).

READ: MEI’s latest Perspective explores why the Strait of Hormuz crisis has pushed the US-Iran confrontation into uncharted territory - where waiting it out may no longer be an option. Read the piece [here](#).

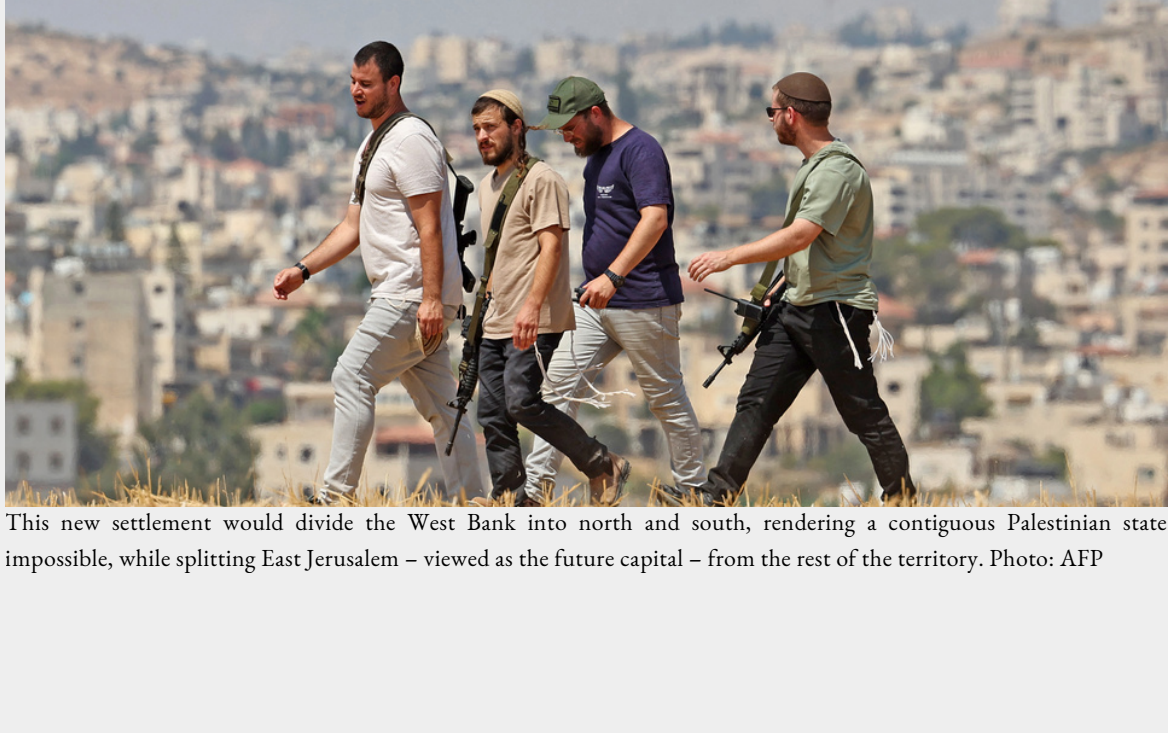
WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Trump Vows to Unleash ‘Economic D-day’ on Iran

As the war neared its six-month point, US President Donald Trump warned that he would unleash the “most crushing economic operation ever taken”. Mr Trump added that Iran “failed to take” the opportunity to make a deal and would face “economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale”.

Israel Moves Forward with Settlement Plan

Israel’s Housing Ministry issued a notice inviting bids for the construction of more than 1,200 housing units, which aims to create a continuous bloc of Jewish settlements from East Jerusalem to the West Bank. This plan could split the territory and “bury” the possibility of a two-state solution.



This new settlement would divide the West Bank into north and south, rendering a contiguous Palestinian state impossible, while splitting East Jerusalem – viewed as the future capital – from the rest of the territory. Photo: AFP

Houthis Claim New Strikes on Saudi Arabia

The rebels’ spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group carried out a drone attack against a “sensitive Saudi enemy target” at the Najran Airport and another against unspecified Aramco facilities. He added that this was in response to Saudi forces flying drones over the Saada province of Yemen .

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

MEI-Bisa Seminar Series 2026

How is the US-Israeli war against Iran reshaping the Middle East — and what could its consequences mean for the wider world? In this four-part seminar series, the Middle East Institute (MEI) and the British International Studies Association (Bisa) bring together leading scholars from around the world to examine the conflict’s cascading consequences, from Iran’s evolving political landscape and the reshaping of Gulf security and economies to disruptions in global energy markets and beyond. The series opens with “The War and Shifting Political Landscape in Iran” on Tuesday, 22 September 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (SGT). Sign up [here](#).



Pre-war public dissent in Tehran has largely been redirected towards resistance against foreign invasion, signalling a notable shift in the nation. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Netanyahu Casts Turkey as New Villain

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, facing a tough re-election fight, is zeroing in on another perceived villain – Turkey. On Tuesday, Israeli warplanes bombed a base in northern Syria, a short drive from the Turkish border. Mr Netanyahu said Turkey was looking to establish a military presence there and that after it ignored Israel’s warnings: “We made sure they understood it more clearly”. Ahead of the elections, his campaign displayed billboards featuring figures such as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan alongside the phrase, “they want Netanyahu to lose”.



Mr Erdogan has been a virulent critic of Israel’s massive offensive in Gaza since the 7 October attacks. Photo: AFP

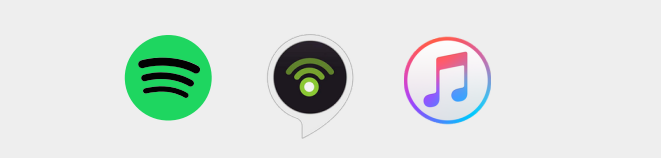
War in the Region Leaves Iraq Running Out of Money

The Strait of Hormuz blockade is severely impacting ordinary Iraqis as restricted oil exports leave the government running out of cash. Consequently, thousands are facing payment delays. With roughly two-thirds of the country’s 30 million working-age citizens relying on the state for their livelihoods, the vast majority of Baghdad’s budget is consumed by salaries, pensions, and social welfare — requiring between US\$6.5billion and US\$8.2 billion every month.

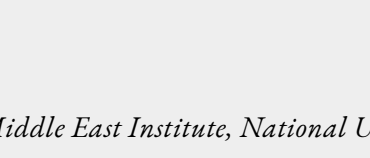


Almost all of Iraq’s national budget, somewhere between 85% and 90%, comes from the export of its oil. Photo: Canva

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