

MEIWeekly.



Iran is preparing conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, including a demand for an end to the war, according to its Supreme National Security Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei. Among its demands are that Washington lift its blockade of Tehran’s ports, pay compensation and remove sanctions imposed before Iran agrees to reopen. Photo: AFP

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

READ: This [Heard@theSouq](#) article analyses how the failure of Israeli defences on 7 October and the containment of Iranian retaliation in the current war transformed the rules of military engagement in the Middle East. To read, click [here](#).

READ: Will the newly-signed Mecca Defence Agreement usher in a Nato-style regional security framework or is it simply a show of force? Read the [article here](#).

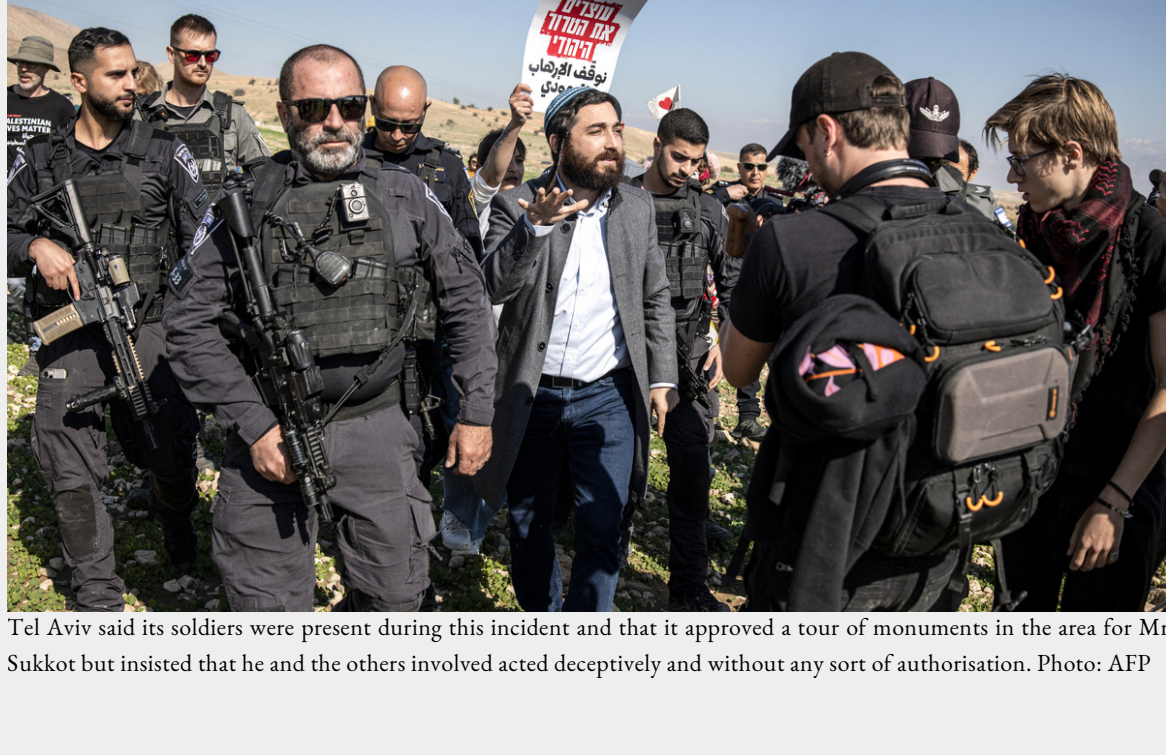
WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Iran War Reaches Endgame: A Stalemate

Six months after US and Israeli forces attacked Iran, Tehran remains under an economic siege but believes it is still in power and has time on its side. The Islamic Republic has not surrendered, the Strait of Hormuz remains severely disrupted, and there is still no clear path to ending the conflict.

Far-right Israeli Lawmaker Damages Palestinian Memorial

While under military escort, Mr Zvi Sukkot - a member of the Religious Zionism party - struck a stone memorial in the Palestinian village of Madama. "This is something we cannot leave standing here, because any place that glorifies terrorism, we must remove it", he said in a video footage.



Tel Aviv said its soldiers were present during this incident and that it approved a tour of monuments in the area for Mr Sukkot but insisted that he and the others involved acted deceptively and without any sort of authorisation. Photo: AFP

Trump Insists Saudi Arabia Recognise Israel for Nuclear Deal

US President Donald Trump sent Congress a proposed agreement with Riyadh on civil nuclear energy while reiterating that the pact will only be approved if the Kingdom normalises relations with Israel. Congress could allow the deal to proceed without normalisation and proliferation stipulations.

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

China’s Xi to Visit Egypt

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek as part of a state visit to Kyrgyzstan, before travelling to Egypt on a trip from 30 August 30 to 3 September , according to Beijing’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In Egypt, Mr Xi will meet President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for talks aimed at “making a positive contribution to safeguarding peace and stability in the region”, added the ministry.



This will be Mr Xi’s first visit to Cairo in 10 years. Photo: AFP

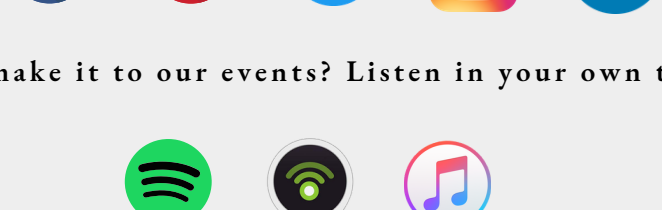
Paris and Riyadh Agree on US\$7 Billion Theme Park Project

Following talks between French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the Elysee Palace, both sides announced plans on Monday for an amusement park near Paris as part of a raft of deals signed during the meeting. This agreement includes three amusement parks, including a manga-inspired one based on the popular Japanese anime series Dragon Ball Z. “Nothing like this has been seen since Disneyland Paris”, President Macron said in a post on X, adding that the investment is expected to create more than 20,000 jobs.

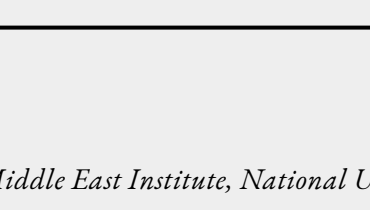


Both leaders discussed their mutual interest in animated comics with Mr Macron also adding his “determination to attract more investments into France”. Photo: AFP

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