

MEIWeekly.



The US military is investigating Tehran's claims that its strikes killed at least four people, including two children, at a wedding in southern Iran, Vice-President JD Vance said. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (Ircs) - a humanitarian group - said shrapnel from a missile hit the ceremony at a home in Sirik on Tuesday as Tehran called this a "war crime". Photo: AFP

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

READ: In Souq, MEI Research Fellow Jia Liu explains why President Xi's visit to Egypt is not simply a bilateral engagement but part of Beijing's broader strategy to manage the regional fallout of the Iran war. To read, click [here](#).

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. Read the piece [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

US Attack Turns Iranian Wedding Into Tragedy

Reports revealed that the wedding was struck by a bomb that was released by American forces as they carried out intense attacks in southern Iran. It killed five people and wounded 67 others, Iranian authorities said as Washington insisted that the "US military never targets civilians unlike the Irgc".

Tel Aviv Seeking Trump's Support for Palestinians' Expulsions

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said US support could tip regional opinion in favour of the forced resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza. He added that there is "no real solution for Gaza in the end without this migration" and "every country that is willing to take them in wants American backing".



Mr Katz pointed in particular to Egypt, which he said lobbied Washington to oppose the forced removal of the Palestinian population. His remarks came during a competitive election season in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his right-wing allies are appealing to voters by calling for more aggressive measures against Palestinians. Photo: AFP

Russia Secretly Helping Tehran Develop Supersonic Missiles

This programme, codenamed C430L, began taking shape in 2023 and centres on technology that could allow Iranian missiles to travel at several times the speed of sound. According to experts, these supersonic missiles are capable of being a threat to US aircraft carriers and warships in the region.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

MEI-Bisa Seminar Series 2026

The US–Israeli war against Iran upended Tehran’s domestic political landscape, reshaping public dissent, disrupting established power structures and forcing anti-government movements to navigate both state repression and foreign intervention. With senior leaders eliminated and new political figures emerging, questions remain over who will shape Iran’s future and whether the country can maintain political cohesion during and after the war. This seminar examines these shifts and what they could mean for Tehran’s post-war political trajectory. This event will take place on Tuesday, 22 September 2026, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (SGT). To register, click [here](#).

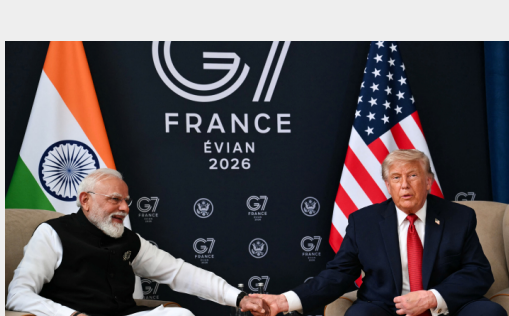


Tehran responded to Washington's aggression by attacking US military bases in the Gulf. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

India Eyes Gulf, Israel Trade Deals Once Middle East Stabilises

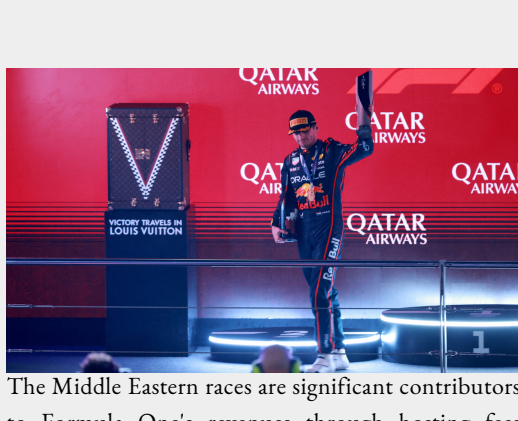
The pacts with Israel and the GCC - which comprises Saudi Arabia, the UAE Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain - will be finalised "as soon as things stabilise over there", Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday. India and Israel earlier agreed to wrap up trade negotiations soon during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jerusalem in February, shortly before Washington and Tel Aviv attacked Tehran, triggering a war that disrupted global supply chains. New Delhi has been particularly exposed to the conflict because it imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil.



The US and India are working together as partners on critical minerals, Mr Goyal added. Photo: AFP

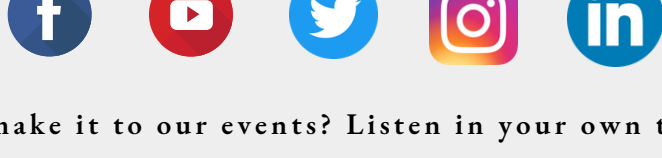
Qatar Still Planning to Host MotoGP and F1 Races

Doha is still planning to host MotoGP and Formula One races in November despite ongoing uncertainty over the regional conflict, Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation President Abdul Rahman bin Abdullatif Al Mannai said. F1 is expected to make a final decision by mid-September on its 29 November race at the Lusail circuit near Doha while MotoGP remains scheduled for 8 November. Al Mannai said Qatar was safe and had returned to normal life, though the World Endurance Championship cancelled its 24 October round in the country.

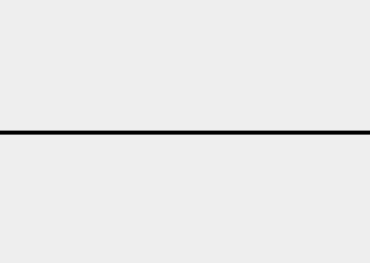


The Middle Eastern races are significant contributors to Formula One's revenues through hosting fees worth many tens of millions of dollars. Photo: AFP

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