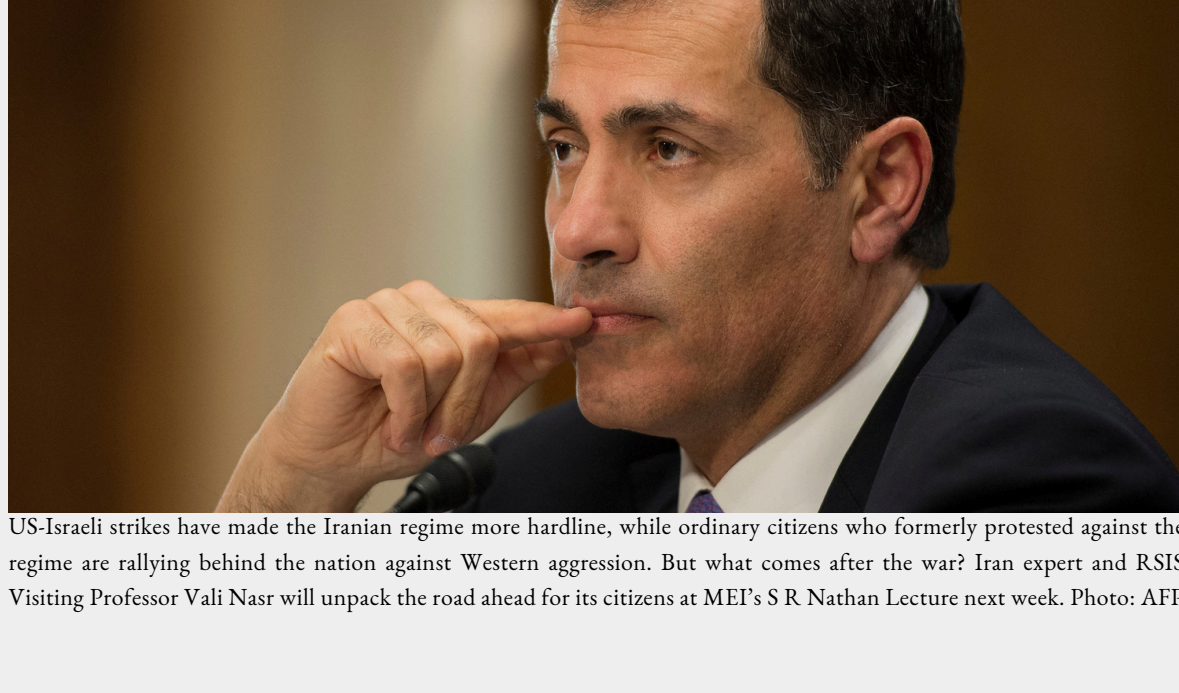


MEIWeekly.



US-Israeli strikes have made the Iranian regime more hardline, while ordinary citizens who formerly protested against the regime are rallying behind the nation against Western aggression. But what comes after the war? Iran expert and RSIS Visiting Professor Vali Nasr will unpack the road ahead for its citizens at MEI's S R Nathan Lecture next week. Photo: AFP

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

READ: How are the Houthis morphing into a threat beyond Yemen? RSIS Research Fellow Ghada Soliman examines this in the latest MEI Perspectives series. Read the article [here](#).

READ: The Iran that is emerging from the war may be very different from the Iran that entered it. Prime yourselves for MEI's S R Nathan Lecture next week by reading this [here](#).

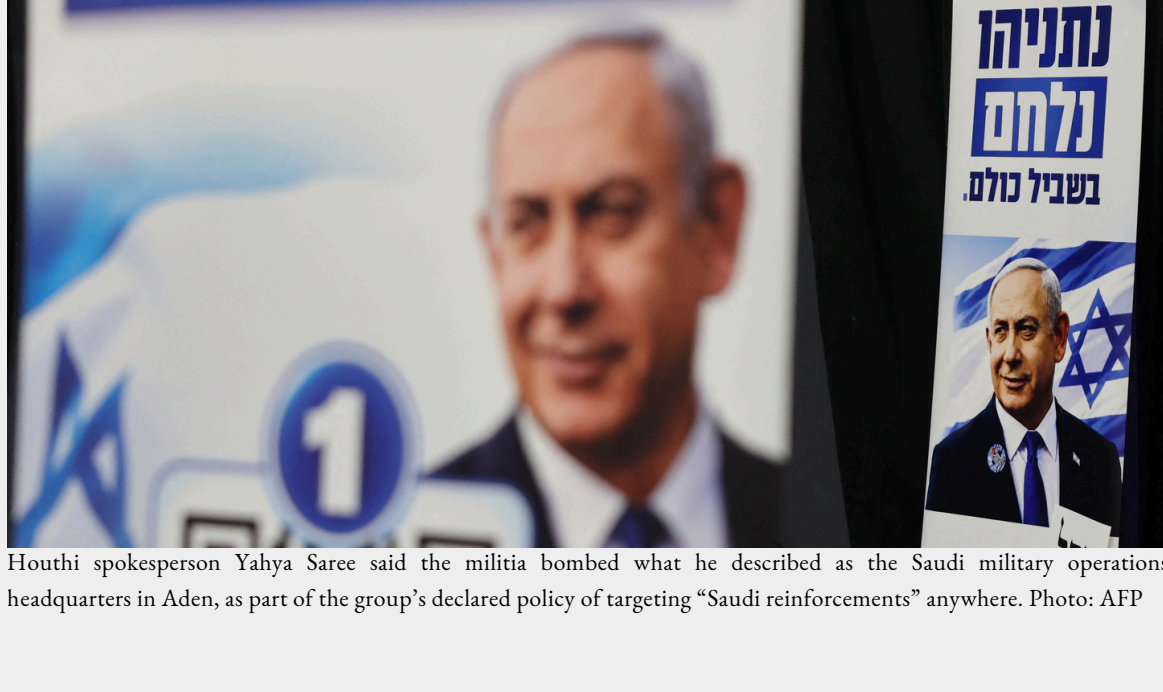
WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Vali Nasr to Unpack the Road Ahead for Iranians Next Week

Taking the stage next week at MEI's flagship S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture, Professor Vali Nasr will answer critical questions on how the Islamic Republic will govern the nation and how it will navigate its relations with the rest of the Middle East and the rest of the world after the war is over.

Houthis Strike Yemen Presidential Palace

The attack was the first on Aden's Al-Maashiq palace in the current conflict between the Iran-aligned Houthis and Saudi Arabia. While Yemen's Prime Minister Shaya al-Zindani and other Cabinet members were safe, casualties from the attacks included guards and civilian employees.



Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree said the militia bombed what he described as the Saudi military operations headquarters in Aden, as part of the group's declared policy of targeting "Saudi reinforcements" anywhere. Photo: AFP

US Considering Using 'Mother of all Bombs' Against Iran

The Pentagon has drawn up plans to potentially use the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb against Iranian nuclear sites and energy infrastructure. If given the green light by US President Donald Trump, these strikes could take place either before or after the American midterm elections.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

S R Nathan Distinguished Lecture 2026

MEI's flagship event is taking place next week! Don't miss this valuable chance to hear from RSIS Visiting Professor Vali R. Nasr. The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East has reached a historic turning point and the world is paying attention to all developments in Iran and the Strait of Hormuz. Following two devastating wars in 2025–2026, the Islamic Republic's state, society, and regional role have been altered. Among other crucial questions, Professor Nasr will address how Tehran's battered economy could be revived after the costly and deadly war in the Middle East. This event takes place in person at the Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel Ballroom 3 and online via Zoom on Thursday, 22 October 2026, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM (SGT). Seats are filling up fast so get in now to sign up [here](#).



After six months of war, the Iranian regime survived the war and is now savvier, ruthless and more hard-line. Photo: AFP

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Israeli Elections is Less than Two Weeks Away

Two weeks before what is widely considered Israel's most consequential election in decades, its streets are surprisingly empty of rallies and campaign posters, with voters seemingly more exhausted than engaged. "Israelis are tired after three years of war," experts said, adding that, "they also know that the war isn't over, that whoever wins will have to fight its next stage. It makes it hard to generate excitement for the future".



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's campaign has been overshadowed by many accusations that he failed to prevent the 7 October Hamas attacks. Photo: AFP

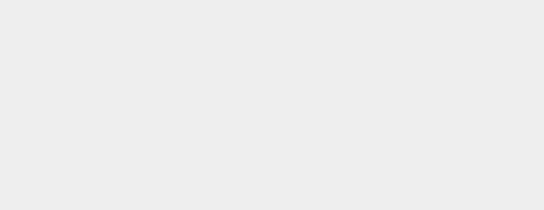
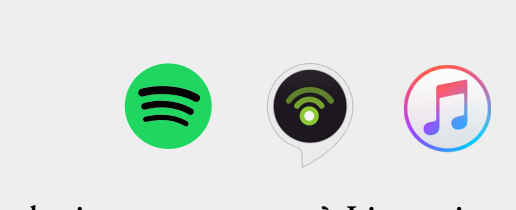
UAE May Halt UK Investments after Manchester City Fiasco

Abu Dhabi has reportedly warned the British government that it could cancel big investments in the United Kingdom after Manchester City were found guilty by an independent commission. Emirati officials said "the Premier League's actions" would "have an influence on the bilateral state relationship", according to reports. Elsewhere, the UAE is threatening to withdraw a multibillion-pound investment in a Silicon Valley-style Oxbridge tech hub. The Premier League brought 115 charges against the club for breaches of financial rules between 2009 and 2018. Of those charges, 114 were upheld by an independent commission in September.



City could be stripped of titles won in the period covered by the charges if outcome is upheld. Photo: AFP

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