The Khashoggi murder

How Saudi Arabia is trying to extricate itself

To counter possible US pressure, the Saudis appear determined to diversify their arms suppliers and build a defensive dual alliance. It is also a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) by declaring a war on Iran and gearing up for another potential war in Syria. The Democrat election victory has dramatically altered the script and US President Donald Trump now wants to try to work with the new administration. Saudi Arabia appears to believe that Trump will be more amenable to its interests and that MBS can do more to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

The situation is a long time in the making. The decision to return to annual defense and security coordination (ADC) meetings in 2018, followed by a second ADC meeting in 2019, provided a strong indication that the US was losing interest in a Saudi Arabia-US alliance. The most likely outcome of MBS’s re-election is the negotiation of a treaty. However, it would be a fudge but would give both sides the opportunity to negotiate a form of territorial solution for the Palestinian question. US-Palestinian coordination in Syria is no longer possible, while Israel is no longer making it easy for its fighters. This leaves the US-Saudi relationship on the table. For this reason, another failed offensive in Gno in the near future is unlikely.

Ibrahim Frisvold is Associate Pro- fessor of International Relations at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He can be followed on @iafrisvold.

DAILY EXPRESS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

COMMENTARY

By Ibrahim Frisvold

Palestinians burn a poster depicting Israel’s Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman

The Khassoggi murder

How Saudi Arabia is trying to extricate itself

To counter possible US pressure, the Saudis appear determined to diversify their arms suppliers and build a defensive dual alliance. It is also a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) by declaring a war on Iran and gearing up for another potential war in Syria. The Democrat election victory has dramatically altered the script and US President Donald Trump now wants to try to work with the new administration. Saudi Arabia appears to believe that Trump will be more amenable to its interests and that MBS can do more to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

The situation is a long time in the making. The decision to return to annual defense and security coordination (ADC) meetings in 2018, followed by a second ADC meeting in 2019, provided a strong indication that the US was losing interest in a Saudi Arabia-US alliance. The most likely outcome of MBS’s re-election is the negotiation of a treaty. However, it would be a fudge but would give both sides the opportunity to negotiate a form of territorial solution for the Palestinian question. US-Palestinian coordination in Syria is no longer possible, while Israel is no longer making it easy for its fighters. This leaves the US-Saudi relationship on the table. For this reason, another failed offensive in Gno in the near future is unlikely.

Ibrahim Frisvold is Associate Pro- fessor of International Relations at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He can be followed on @iafrisvold.

DAILY EXPRESS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

COMMENTARY

By Ibrahim Frisvold

Palestinians burn a poster depicting Israel’s Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman

The Khassoggi murder

How Saudi Arabia is trying to extricate itself

To counter possible US pressure, the Saudis appear determined to diversify their arms suppliers and build a defensive dual alliance. It is also a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) by declaring a war on Iran and gearing up for another potential war in Syria. The Democrat election victory has dramatically altered the script and US President Donald Trump now wants to try to work with the new administration. Saudi Arabia appears to believe that Trump will be more amenable to its interests and that MBS can do more to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

The situation is a long time in the making. The decision to return to annual defense and security coordination (ADC) meetings in 2018, followed by a second ADC meeting in 2019, provided a strong indication that the US was losing interest in a Saudi Arabia-US alliance. The most likely outcome of MBS’s re-election is the negotiation of a treaty. However, it would be a fudge but would give both sides the opportunity to negotiate a form of territorial solution for the Palestinian question. US-Palestinian coordination in Syria is no longer possible, while Israel is no longer making it easy for its fighters. This leaves the US-Saudi relationship on the table. For this reason, another failed offensive in Gno in the near future is unlikely.

Ibrahim Frisvold is Associate Pro- fessor of International Relations at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He can be followed on @iafrisvold.

DAILY EXPRESS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

COMMENTARY

By Ibrahim Frisvold

Palestinians burn a poster depicting Israel’s Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman

The Khassoggi murder

How Saudi Arabia is trying to extricate itself

To counter possible US pressure, the Saudis appear determined to diversify their arms suppliers and build a defensive dual alliance. It is also a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) by declaring a war on Iran and gearing up for another potential war in Syria. The Democrat election victory has dramatically altered the script and US President Donald Trump now wants to try to work with the new administration. Saudi Arabia appears to believe that Trump will be more amenable to its interests and that MBS can do more to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

The situation is a long time in the making. The decision to return to annual defense and security coordination (ADC) meetings in 2018, followed by a second ADC meeting in 2019, provided a strong indication that the US was losing interest in a Saudi Arabia-US alliance. The most likely outcome of MBS’s re-election is the negotiation of a treaty. However, it would be a fudge but would give both sides the opportunity to negotiate a form of territorial solution for the Palestinian question. US-Palestinian coordination in Syria is no longer possible, while Israel is no longer making it easy for its fighters. This leaves the US-Saudi relationship on the table. For this reason, another failed offensive in Gno in the near future is unlikely.

Ibrahim Frisvold is Associate Pro- fessor of International Relations at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He can be followed on @iafrisvold.

DAILY EXPRESS

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

COMMENTARY

By Ibrahim Frisvold

Palestinians burn a poster depicting Israel’s Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman

The Khassoggi murder

How Saudi Arabia is trying to extricate itself

To counter possible US pressure, the Saudis appear determined to diversify their arms suppliers and build a defensive dual alliance. It is also a bid to bolster domestic support for crown prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) by declaring a war on Iran and gearing up for another potential war in Syria. The Democrat election victory has dramatically altered the script and US President Donald Trump now wants to try to work with the new administration. Saudi Arabia appears to believe that Trump will be more amenable to its interests and that MBS can do more to diversify the Saudi economy and create jobs.

The situation is a long time in the making. The decision to return to annual defense and security coordination (ADC) meetings in 2018, followed by a second ADC meeting in 2019, provided a strong indication that the US was losing interest in a Saudi Arabia-US alliance. The most likely outcome of MBS’s re-election is the negotiation of a treaty. However, it would be a fudge but would give both sides the opportunity to negotiate a form of territorial solution for the Palestinian question. US-Palestinian coordination in Syria is no longer possible, while Israel is no longer making it easy for its fighters. This leaves the US-Saudi relationship on the table. For this reason, another failed offensive in Gno in the near future is unlikely.

Ibrahim Frisvold is Associate Pro- fessor of International Relations at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He can be followed on @iafrisvold.