

MEIWeekly.



Petrobras' P-51 oil platform (pictured above) can produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil and 6 million cubic metres of gas per day. The flood of crude oil from non-traditional producers such as Brazil is expected to usher in an era of low oil prices. Photo: Agência Brasil, EBC.

CALENDAR: UPCOMING INSTITUTE EVENTS

Regional Geopolitics in a Changing Era

With the United States' role in the Middle East diminishing, alongside a revamped Russia and a newly assertive China stepping up their geopolitical game, what is next for the region? Join us on 22 November as experts share their views on new power structures in the Middle East, with a focus on case studies of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.



WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Flood of Oil Damaging for Middle East

The surge in oil supply coming from non-conventional oil producers such as Brazil, Canada, Norway and Guyana will almost certainly usher in an era of low oil prices. Standing to add nearly a million barrels a day to the market in 2020 and nearly a million more in 2021, this flood of crude oil could bring economic relief to importing countries such as China, India and Japan, but may complicate efforts to combat global warming. Oil-dependent Middle East economies will need to brace themselves for capital starvation.



A view of the eastern part of Tripoli. This northern city has some of the highest poverty levels in Lebanon. Photo: Heretiq, shared on Wikipedia Commons.

Protests Continue in Lebanon's Tripoli

Protests in Tripoli since 17 October persist in the light of severe economic deprivation and high unemployment in the northern Lebanese city. These largely calm protests have shaken the bloodstained image of tit-for-tat bombings and sectarian divide. In response to politicians who continue to stoke civil war era sectarian tensions, protestors chanted: "We are the popular revolution, you are the civil war."

President Halimah Meets Students in Kuwait

Meeting 17 Singaporean students studying in Kuwait on Monday (4 November), President Halimah Yacob reminded them that as future Islamic religious teachers, they have to play a key role in promoting social cohesion in multiracial and multi-religious Singapore. Madam Halimah is there on a state visit, before heading to Saudi Arabia for Singapore's first state visit to the Kingdom, at the invitation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP WATCH ON

Turkey's Erdogan to Visit Washington

Despite a push in Congress for sanctions against Turkey, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office said on Wednesday (6 November) that he will meet his American counterpart President Donald Trump in Washington next Wednesday (13 November). The confirmation comes after Turkish officials said President Erdogan may cancel the trip over congressional measures against Ankara, including a House resolution that recognised the Armenian genocide.

Jordan to Regain Full Control of Enclaves

Jordan is to regain full control of Baqoura and al-Gharma next week, two enclaves leased to Israel under terms of a peace treaty signed 25 years ago. Efforts by Israel to negotiate an extension of the lease from Jordan have not succeeded, amid strained relations.

#MUSTREAD: WHAT'S POPULAR ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: President Halimah Yacob has accepted Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's invitation for Singapore to participate in the G20 meetings held in Saudi Arabia in 2020. President Halimah, who is the first Singaporean leader on a state visit to the Kingdom, also received the King Abdulaziz Medal from King Salman.
<https://bit.ly/2K16W1g>

Rounding up this year's ME101 lecture series on Wednesday (13 November), MEI Chairman Bilahari Kausikan took questions on the development trajectories of the Middle East and South-east Asia, and flux in domestic politics in the Levant. Missed a lecture? You can still catch up via our videos or podcasts. Watch: <https://bit.ly/2CmeYtS> or listen: <https://spoti.fi/34AV2zn>.

TWITTER: Western colonialism has "distorted the nature of the Middle East" in the name of freedom and religious liberty, leaving lasting legacies of sectarian politics, this author argues.
<https://bit.ly/2NTe79c>



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