

MEI Weekly.



The Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal in Qatar, with a LNG tanker alongside. On Monday (9 November), Singapore's Temasek-owned Pavilion Energy signed a 10-year agreement with Qatar Petroleum to supply Singapore with the fuel. Photo: Matthew Smith, as shared on Wikimedia Commons.

WHAT'S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS AND MORE

WATCH, LISTEN & READ: In our MEI Salon talk on 3 November, photographer Charlene Winfred shared with attendees her unique reflections on her time spent working with refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan and documenting their stories. In turn wistful and revelatory, Ms Winfred's photography strikingly illustrated her stories of Iraqi women starting out in small businesses, armed only with sheer pluck and the financial assistance of non-governmental organisation, Preemptive Love. Catch up on her recounting her experiences [here](#).

READ: In an exclusive review for MEI, Professor Malik R Dahlan gave his thoughts on *The House of Sciences: The First Modern University in the Muslim World*, a recent book by Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. It examines the beginnings, development and legacy of the Darülfünun — the institution in Turkey considered the spiritual forerunner of Istanbul University. Professor Dahlan, an MEI honorary fellow, observes that graduates from the Darülfünun were not only instrumental in the shift to constitutional forms of government in Turkey, but also played key roles in advocating Arab nationalism, an era-shaping force. Read his book review [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

Temasek Unit Signs Deal with Qatar Supplier

Temasek-owned Pavilion Energy announced a 10-year sale and purchase agreement with Qatar Petroleum on Monday (9 November). Qatar Petroleum, the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) producer, is to supply Singapore with up to 1.8 million tonnes of the fuel from 2023. The agreement will help Singapore meet its energy needs in a manner friendlier to the environment. Each shipment from Qatar will include a statement accounting for its associated greenhouse gas emissions. Singapore's Second Minister for Trade and Industry Tan See Leng noted this will "pave the way for increased demand for carbon offset projects to reduce emissions" linked to the supply chain. In 2018, Singapore consumed LNG at a rate of about nine million tonnes a year.

Bahrain's Prime Minister Dies at 84

After suffering from declining health for years, Prince Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa died on Wednesday (11 November) at the age of 84 at the Mayo Clinic in the United States. Prince Khalifa spent almost five decades as Bahrain's prime minister, the world's longest tenure in such a role. As the Arab Spring protests occurred in 2011, Prince Khalifa criticised them, and the matter was quickly brought close to home by Bahrain's own Pearl Roundabout protests that February, an episode that saw Saudi and Emirati troops enter Bahrain in support of the government. Bahrain announced late Wednesday that Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa will become the country's next prime minister.

Turkey's Finance Minister Resigns as Lira Falls

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's son-in-law Berat Albayrak announced his resignation as Turkey's finance minister on Sunday (8 November), citing health reasons. Former Deputy Prime Minister Lufti Elvan has been appointed as Mr Albayrak's replacement. After five years in the post, Mr Albayrak's resignation comes as Turkey enters an economic crisis. Inflation has risen and so has unemployment, and the lira has fallen 30 per cent this year despite Mr Albayrak spending foreign reserves to support it. Seen as a potential political successor to Mr Erdogan, Mr Albayrak's resignation letter alluded to disagreements within the Turkish leadership and referenced difficulties faced separating friend from foe. With the economy in decline, opposition parties are calling for early elections.



Former Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak addressing a press conference in Istanbul in 2019. Mr Albayrak resigned on Sunday (8 November) as the Turkish lira has lost substantial value this year and the economy has floundered. Photo: Ozan Kose / AFP.

CALENDAR: UPCOMING MEI EVENTS

BOTG Podcast: Regulation & Accountability of Private Military in International Law

In this eighth installation of MEP's "Boots Off The Ground: Security in Transition in the Middle East and Beyond" podcast series, join Dr Alessandro Arduino and Dr Ameer Lutfi as they speak to Professor Simon Chesterman (dean, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore) about the possibilities and limitations of regulating private military and security companies through international law. Professor Chesterman will also explore prospective alternatives, and whether there are better local and market-based solutions to the problem.



This episode will be released on **18 November 2020** on the MEI website, Podbean and Spotify.

Webinar: How Israeli Innovation Enhances Singapore's Economic & Tech Developments

This live webinar, organised by Cybint, will feature how businesses in Singapore can manage emerging cybersecurity threats with reskilling and upskilling, changes in the technological landscape, and the future of the cybersecurity workforce. Presenters include His Excellency Sagi Karni, the Israeli ambassador in Singapore, MEP's Principal Research Fellow Alessandro Arduino as well as other leading industry experts from various cybersecurity companies and organisations.

Join this live webinar on **19 November 2020** at **2pm**. Registration is free and all are welcome. [Click here for more details now!](#)

LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP WATCH ON

No Clemency for Saudi Female Activists?

Saudi Arabia's embassy in London has denied that the kingdom is considering clemency for jailed female activists ahead of the G20 summit later this month. The denial came on Thursday (12 November), a day after Saudi Ambassador Khalid bin Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud said that the women could be released during the two-day summit due to begin next Saturday (21 November). Members of the US Congress, civil society organisations and human rights groups have called for a boycott of the event.



Opec+ Could Deepen Oil Cuts if Necessary

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and allies led by Russia, a group known as Opec+, are due to reduce their existing cuts on oil production of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd) by about 2 million bpd in January 2021. An extension until the end of March is also being considered as an option should market conditions require, Opec+ sources said. Opec+ is due to meet next on 30 November and 1 December, following a high-level ministerial meeting next Tuesday (17 November).

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