

MEIWeekly.



Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman speaks during a press conference after the 33rd OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting in Vienna on 5 October 2022. Photo: Vladimir Simicek / AFP

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

- **READ:** Middle East Institute Principal Research Fellow Dr. Alessandro Arduino and Senior Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute Andrew Cainey analyse the growing interest of China and the Gulf states in using the digital yuan as a global payment infrastructure to reduce the dependency on the US dollar. Read the article [here](#).
- **READ:** France has proposed the formation of a joint programme for the Rafale warplane under their new trilateral partnership with India and the UAE. Middle East Institute Senior Research Fellow Dr. Jean-Loup Samaan mentions that this could pave the way for closer collaboration between the three countries in defence. Read the article [here](#).

WHAT'S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

OPEC+ to Cut Oil Output, Deals Blow to the US

On Wednesday, OPEC+ agreed to deep oil production slashes as the Biden administration expressed disappointment over the group's short-sighted decision and pledged to work with Congress on legislation to limit the association's influence on energy prices. The White House has accused the Riyadh-led consortium of aligning itself with Russia, while the group maintains recession risks as the rationale behind the decision.

US to Impose Further Costs on Iran

Following violent crackdowns on protests, President Joe Biden has announced that the US will inflict "further costs" on Tehran. The president has said that the US "will continue holding Iranian officials accountable and supporting the rights of Iranians to protest freely". Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has criticised this, accusing Mr. Biden of "hypocrisy" and blaming the US for fomenting the protests.



Protests to support Iranian women three weeks after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman. Photo: Valeria Mongelli / AFP

Saudi Arabia to Host 2029 Asian Winter Games

The event will take place in Trojena, part of Riyadh's US\$500 billion megacity NEOM, a futuristic project that is part of Vision 2030. The Kingdom will be the first Middle Eastern country to host the event.

CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

ME 101 Lecture Series 2022 #08: Geopolitical Competition in the Middle East | Israel – More than Just Palestine

The curtain comes down on our signature ME 101 lecture series with a final talk by MEI Senior Research Fellow Dr. Jean-Loup Samaan on the history, current trends, and challenges of Israel's foreign policy. Join us for this lecture, which will be conducted both in person at the Level 6 Conference Room at 29, Heng Mui Keng Terrace, and online via Zoom, on 13 October 2022, at 4.30 PM (SGT). For more details and to register, click [here](#).



#ICYMI: ME 101 Lecture Series 2022 #06: Economics and Social Changes in the Middle East | What to Expect from Egypt, Host of Upcoming UN Climate Conference (COP 27)

On 29 September, MEI Research Fellow Dr. Aisha Al-Sarifi analysed the main challenges faced by Arab countries due to climate change, the role Egypt plays in the upcoming COP 27 convocation, and whether the conference will be effective in addressing the agenda. You can catch her lecture [here](#).



LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

Pope to Visit Bahrain in November

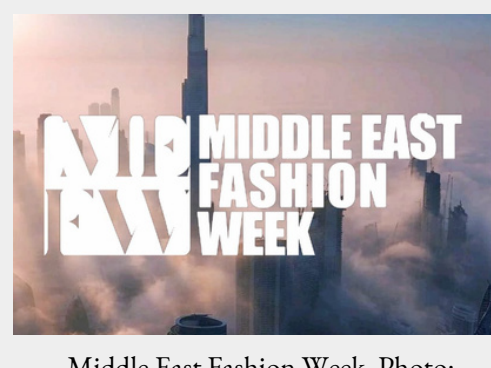
Pope Francis will travel to Bahrain from 3-6 November, making him the first supreme pontiff to visit the archipelago nation in the Persian Gulf. The focus of the visit will be the "Bahrain Forum for Dialogue: East and West for Human Coexistence", an international conference.



Pope Francis. Photo: Northeastern University

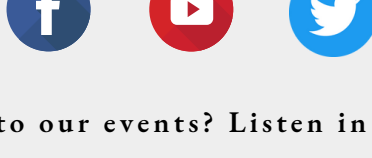
Middle East Fashion Week Returns to Dubai

The event will be held from the 7th to the 10th of November and will centre on the business-to-business segment, connecting local and global talent with retailers and buyers. Furthermore, it will include the second Middle East Sustainable Fashion Forum - a panel of speakers leading discussions on integrating sustainable practices into design and supply chain operations.



Middle East Fashion Week. Photo: Facebook

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