

Saudi prince's policy debacles

Jan 2015: *King Salman* ascends to throne. Son, **Mohammed bin Salman (MbS)**, becomes defence minister



Mar: MbS launches Saudi-led war against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen



أرامكو السعودية
saudi aramco

Apr 2016: MbS unveils **Vision 2030** to make economy less dependent on oil. Announces plan to sell shares in **Saudi Aramco**. **Boasts oil company is worth \$2 trillion**

Sep: Prince cuts ministers' salaries by 20%, scraps public sector bonuses



Oct: MbS buys €500m yacht **Serene**



Jun 2017: Crown Prince **Muhammad bin Nayef** is deposed by royal decree. **MbS is made heir apparent**

Jun: MbS triggers land, sea and air blockade of **Qatar** over its close relations with Iran

Sep: Clerics and intellectuals critical of Qatar blockade are arrested

Oct: MbS hosts **Davos in the Desert** investment conference

Nov 4-21: **Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri** (below) is held in Riyadh and forced to announce his resignation on TV. After international pressure PM is released and immediately rescinds his resignation



Nov: Dozens of Saudi Arabian royals, ministers and businessmen are detained in anti-corruption probe. **Assets worth more than \$100 billion are seized**



Jul 2018: Aramco flotation flounders as experts question \$2 trillion valuation



Aug: Riyadh severs diplomatic and trade ties with Canada after tweet by Canadian Foreign Minister calls for release of Saudi human rights activist **Samar Badawi**



Oct 23-25: Biggest names in global business and finance boycott crown prince's second Davos in the Desert, repulsed by killing of dissident journalist **Jamal Khashoggi** in Saudi consulate in Istanbul