LATIN AMERICA BRIEFS

Leaders to discuss Venezuelan oil proposal

The leaders of Venezuela and several Caribbean countries will meet in Panama next week for talks on the South American nation’s offer to provide the region with a valuable fleet of tankers to transport heavy crude oil direct to refineries, officials said Sunday.

The leaders will meet Ipan, in the context of a larger summit of Latin American heads of state that began last week in Trinidad and Tobago, officials said.

The talks will seek to expand the Caribbean community’s offer to provide a fleet of tankers to transport crude oil to refineries in the region.

Ecuador

Ecuvadoreans enduring a ‘tumultuous time’

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa has proposed holding a constitutional referendum in the Amazon region, which is home to the largest oil reserves in the country.

The referendum would be held in September, according to Correa, who said the vote would be held in the provinces of the Amazon region to allow for direct democracy.

However, Correa’s proposal has been met with resistance from opposition politicians, who have called it a ploy to shift the focus away from the ongoing protests.

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