

OPEC+ brings forward oil output rises as Biden's Saudi visit looms

● OPEC brings forward oil output rises to July-Aug from July-Sept

● Faster output rises may compensate for lower Russian production

● US diplomats have been working on Biden's Saudi visit

● Biden faces inflation at 40-year high, low ratings

Reuters | Dubai/London/Riyadh



Oil barrels are pictured at the site of Canadian group Vermilion Energy in Parentis-en-Born, France

Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ states agreed to bring forward oil production rises to offset Russian output losses to ease surging oil prices and inflation and smooth the way for an ice-breaking visit to Riyadh by US President Joe Biden.

OPEC+ said it had agreed to boost output by 648,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July - or 0.7% of global demand - and a similar amount in August versus the initial plan to add 432,000 bpd a month over three months until September.

Oil rose on the news towards

\$117 a barrel as analysts said the real production boost will be insignificant as most OPEC members except for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are already pumping at capacity. Earlier this year, oil came close to an all-time peak of \$147 hit in 2008.

OPEC+, an alliance of the Or-

ganization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producing nations, includes Russia, whose output has fallen by about 1 million bpd following Western sanctions on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

US diplomats have worked for weeks on organising Biden's first visit to Riyadh.

With the Ukraine war adding to a tight crude market, the US administration has sought more supplies from Gulf allies such as Saudi Arabia, as well as from Iran whose output has been restricted by US sanctions that could be lifted if a nuclear deal is reached, and Venezuela, also under US sanctions.

BIDEN'S APPROVAL RATINGS

Rocketing gasoline prices have driven US inflation to a 40-year high, hitting Biden's approval ratings as he approaches mid-term elections.

A source briefed on the matter said Washington wanted clarity on oil output plans before a potential Biden visit for a summit with Gulf Arab leaders, including MbS, in Riyadh.

The White House said it wel-

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Brent futures rose \$1.16, or 1%, to \$117.45 a barrel by 12:06 p.m. EDT (1606 GMT), while US est Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.51, or 1.3%, to \$116.77.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, agreed to raise output by 648,000 barrels per day (bpd) in July and 648,000 bpd in August

comed Thursday's decision and recognised the role of Saudi Arabia in achieving OPEC+ consensus.

Western sanctions could reduce production from Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter, by as much as 2 million to 3 m bpd, according to a range

of industry estimates.

Russia was already producing below its OPEC+ target of 10.44 m bpd in April with output running at about 9.3 m bpd.

A Western diplomat said Russia might be ready to agree to other members of OPEC+ to fill a gap in its output to preserve unity in the group and maintain support from the Gulf, which has tended to take a neutral stance over the Ukraine war.

OPEC+ agreed to cut output by a record amount in 2020 when the pandemic hammered demand. By September, when the deal expires, the group will have limited spare capacity to lift output further.

Saudi Arabia is producing 10.5 m bpd and has rarely tested sustained production levels above 11 m bpd. Riyadh says it is working on boosting its nameplate capacity to 13.4 m bpd from the current 12.4 m by 2027.

The only other OPEC state with significant ability to produce more oil is the UAE, although OPEC is estimated to have less than 2 million bpd of spare capacity in total.

Tamkeen backs first aluminium grain refiner project in the Gulf

TDT | Manama

The Labour Fund "Tamkeen" announced that it has enhanced its cooperation with the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) to attract direct investment opportunities.

Tamkeen signed an agreement with the first aluminium grain refiner in the GCC "Aleastur," as part of a Tamkeen programme which focuses on attracting quality investments to the Kingdom.

Aleastur, one of the most reputable Spanish factory chains, is located in 11 countries around the world and is responsible for producing high-quality aluminium alloys with multiple uses in various industries. In addition, the company has held strong ties with over 800 international enterprises since 1974.

The Bahrain factory is the first in the Gulf region and will contribute to meeting the growing regional and global demand for high quality aluminium products, with the potential to reach an estimated export rate



The deal signing

of 87%.

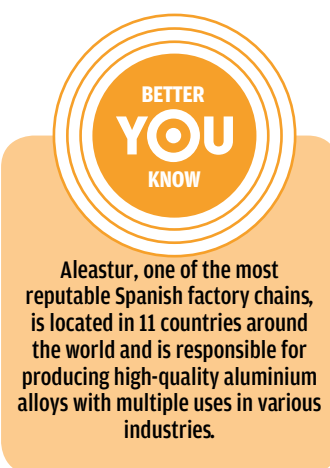
Husain Mohamed Rajab, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen", praised the joint efforts of the Ministry of Industry Commerce and Tourism, Tamkeen, Mumtalakat, the Bahrain EDB, ALBA and the other institutions forming Team Bahrain that contributed to the implementation and success of

this project.

Aleastur Group CEO Sergio Martinez said: "Bahrain holds many great attributes which contributed to our decision to make Bahrain headquarters of the Aleastur plant in the region, including its strategic location at the heart of the Gulf, highly skilled local talent and the availability of a number of trade

agreements."

Tamkeen has supported 3,967 enterprises in the manufacturing industry by providing various solutions in the form of financial grants to purchase machinery and equipment, marketing, and branding, as well as international quality assurance certificates, in addition to providing financing support through partnering with several local banks. Tamkeen was also able to support 7,696 training courses within this industry.



Gulf Air launches direct flights to Manchester, Nice



Gulf Air launches direct flights to Manchester

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's national carrier Gulf Air launched its direct flights to Manchester with two weekly flights.

"We are delighted to announce the launch of our Bahrain-Manchester direct route as part of the historic official and commercial relations between the two Kingdoms," Gulf Air Acting Chief Executive Officer Captain Waleed AlAlawi said.

Gulf Air will be operating a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner air-

craft on its new route, with two weekly flights on Sunday and Wednesday.

Separately, the airline said it also launched direct flights to Nice on the Cote d'Azur on Thursday.

"It is very exciting for the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain to reach further places and connect multiple cities in the East and the West to its hub in Bahrain," AlAlawi said.

Gulf Air will be operating its Airbus 321neo aircraft on its new route, with two weekly flights to Nice via Milan.

Members of Bahrain-Japan Business and Friendship Society visit DANAT

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain-Japan Business and Friendship Society (BJBFS) organised a visit tour to Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstone (DANAT) in Bahrain World Trade Centre on 30th May 2022 to learn about pearls, gemstone and diamonds.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors - DANAT Mr Yaser Abduljalil Alsharifi delivered his welcome address followed by DANAT CEO Ms Noora Jamsheer who gave an introductory talk about DANAT and the history of



The event was attended by Japanese Embassy officials, board members as well as members and friends of the society.

pearling in Bahrain.

An explanation was given by the DANAT team Mr Ali Al Atawi, Dr Reem Al Mealla, Mr Ziad Khaled, coordinated by Ms Layal Bushehri.

Japanese Ambassador Mr Miyamoto Masayuki and BJBFS President Mr Nasser Al Arayedh expressed their admiration and appreciation over DANAT accomplishments.

The event was attended by Japanese Embassy officials, board members as well as members and friends of the society.