



Castellers de Vilafranca prepare the base of their next human tower during the XXVI Concurs de Castells in Tarragona, Spain in this Oct 2, 2016 file photo. — Red Bull Content Pool

## OPEC, Russia rebuff Trump call for...

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That equates to an increase of about 1 million bpd, but the latest data shows they are some way from achieving that target. In August, OPEC and its allies cut production by 600,000 bpd more than their pact required, mainly as a result of falling output in Iran as customers in Europe and Asia reduced purchases ahead of the US sanctions deadline. OPEC put Iran's current production at 3.58 million bpd, down some 300,000 bpd from the start of the year, according to OPEC's secondary sources such as researchers and ship-trackers.

Iran's OPEC governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili insisted yesterday that Iranian production was steady at 3.8 million bpd but appeared to soften his stance on potential increases in OPEC output. "If there is a fall not only from Iran, but anybody else, it is the responsibility of OPEC and non-OPEC to balance the market,"

Kazempour told reporters. Falih said returning to 100 percent compliance was the main objective and should be achieved in the next two-three months.

Although he refrained from specifying how that could be done, Saudi Arabia is the only oil producer with significant spare capacity. "We have the consensus that we need to offset reductions and achieve 100 percent compliance, which means we can produce significantly more than we are producing today if there is demand," Falih said. "The biggest issue is not with the producing countries, it's with the refiners, it's with the demand. We in Saudi Arabia have not seen demand for any additional barrel that we did not produce."

Falih said the big challenge for 2019 was rising output from non-OPEC producers, which could change the market dynamic and decision-making. The OPEC/non-OPEC monitoring committee next meets on Nov 11 in Abu Dhabi, followed by a full OPEC gathering at its Vienna headquarters on Dec 6-7. Yesterday OPEC also published its long-term outlook, steeply revising production growth projections for non-member the United States and saying OPEC would lose market share to rivals in the next five years despite rising oil demand. — Reuters

authorities will have repercussions for the UAE government," said Ghasemi. The ministry did not disclose the advisor's name or the controversial comments.

A senior UAE official later denied Iranian allegations alluding to the involvement of the UAE in training gunmen that claimed the attack. The "formal incitement against the UAE from within Iran is unfortunate, and has escalated after the Ahvaz attack," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for the United Arab Emirates Anwar Gargash said in a tweet. "The UAE's historical position against terrorism and violence is clear and Tehran's allegations are baseless."

State media gave a toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded in the attack, including women and children who were spectators at the parade. Their funerals will be held today, it said. Three attackers were also killed and the fourth died later of his injuries, the armed forces said. IS had claimed the attack via its propaganda mouthpiece Amaq, and that the attack was in response to Iranian involvement in conflicts across the region.

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards vowed yesterday to exact "deadly and unforgettable" vengeance for the attack. "Considering (the Guards) full knowledge about the centers of deployment of the criminal terrorists' leaders... they will face a deadly and unforgettable vengeance in the near future," the Guards said in a statement carried by state media. Senior commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have said the Ahvaz attack was carried out by militants trained by Gulf states and Israel, and backed by America. But it is unlikely the IRGC will strike any of these foes directly. The Guards could put on a show of strength by firing missiles at opposition groups operating in Iraq or Syria that may be linked to the militants who staged the attack. They are also likely to enforce a tight security policy in Khuzestan province, arresting any perceived domestic opponents including civil rights activists.

Three Arab activists told Reuters that security forces, especially the intelligence branch of the Revolutionary Guards, had detained more activists in Ahvaz. "There are many checkpoints on the streets of Ahvaz, and the security forces are searching cars," said Hossein Bouazar, a member of Ahwazi Centre for Human Rights. "Many people are scared." Reuters could not immediately verify this account. Iran has also been hit by sporadic street protests over economic hardship that have taken on anti-government overtones. — Agencies

## India launches world's biggest...

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"It has been launched, and it is going to be a game changer," he told AFP. Some healthcare providers have raised concerns about being left out of pocket, fearing the government has underestimated the cost of certain treatments. Prathap Reddy, chairman of private hospital chain

## Lamjarred case reopens Morocco...

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But the push has done little to dampen the popularity of the 33-year-old singer, whose hit "Lmaalem" has been viewed more than 660 million times on YouTube. "The case of Saad Lamjarred is a symbol that brings together everything connected to rape culture and impunity," said Laila Slassi, one of the campaign's initiators.

Despite the string of allegations against him, the singer's tunes have still been played on radio stations and Moroccan media have enthused over the release of his latest singles. In August, he was prominently featured in a video of artists put out for the birthday of King Mohammed VI - who has helped cover the pop star's legal fees. Lamjarred's fans remain convinced the singer, from a family of artists in the capital Rabat, is the target of a conspiracy and that his alleged victims seek to benefit from his fame.

"He's famous, good looking, so we support him... it's an emblematic case of sympathy for the aggressor in a society where we always find excuses for men," psychologist Sanaa El Aji, a specialist in gender issues, told AFP. Slassi said the media was "promoting a man accused of sexual violence" instead of role models. Under pressure, Morocco's Radio 2M has pulled Lamjarred from its airwaves, saying it "no longer promotes (the singer) since the case is in the hands of the judiciary". But Hit Radio, the kingdom's most popular, was less clear about its stance. The station's head Younes

## Russia 'misled' by Israel over jet...

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Yesterday, military spokesman Igor Konashenkov presented the results of an investigation. Moscow has accused Israel's fighter pilots of using the bigger Ilyushin as cover, causing Syria's Soviet-era S-200 air defense system to interpret the Russian plane as a target.

Israel denied this version of events and its air force commander flew to Moscow following the incident, which Putin called the result of a "chain of tragic accidental circumstances". It was the deadliest known case of friendly fire between Syria and key backer Russia since Moscow's game-changing 2015 military intervention.

Konashenkov said the Russian military received a call from Israeli command at 1839 GMT on the day of the incident to warn that Israel would be striking "north of Syria", where the Il-20 surveillance aircraft was monitoring the Idlib de-escalation zone. Russia ordered its plane back to base. Then, "one minute" after Israel's call, its F-16 planes struck targets in Latakia in western Syria, he said. "The misleading (information) by the Israeli officer regarding the location of the strikes made it impossible to guide the Il-20 to a safe location," said Konashenkov.

Apollo Hospitals, said the private sector was "rightly worried" about pricing and reimbursements. "While we all work together to ensure the success of this scheme, there are areas that need focus and fine tuning," he said.

Others say it should have included primary day-to-day healthcare instead of just secondary and tertiary care for more serious and long term treatment. "Medicare does not extend to primary healthcare, which, we believe, is the weakest link in the provision of public health in India," Rajiv Lall and Vivek Dehejia of the IDFC Institute think-tank said in a column for the Mint newspaper. — AFP

Boumehdji initially said he would not broadcast the superstar's hits, but quickly added the measure would only last until "things calm down". An on-air poll showed 68 percent of Hit Radio's audience wanted to continue listening to the star, regardless of the charges. Ultra-famous in the Arab world, Lamjarred "is still among the most popular on YouTube, and for many of his fans he will remain an icon, even if he is sentenced", Boumehdji told AFP. The case has sparked "a lot of emotion because Saad Lamjarred has the image of a modern man with a new message", he said.

Radio Chada FM, which claims to be a leader in Morocco's arts and music scenes, said it would not take Lamjarred off the air "until he has been tried, in the name of the presumption of innocence". But not everyone agrees. "His song lyrics glorify male domination among couples... and the submission of the woman," business leader Mehdi Alami wrote in a post shared widely on social media. "It amounts to discrediting the word of women," said rights activist Betty Lachgar.

Many like Lachgar have drawn comparisons between the #masaktach campaign and the global #metoo movement against sexual harassment. But in Morocco, "most people don't believe in this type of thinking, (for them), the harassers are the victims", said El Aji. Campaign organizer Slassi says the #masaktach movement gained momentum after the "Khadija affair".

The 17-year-old was at the center of a storm last month after she accused a group of men from her village in central Morocco of having kidnapped, raped and tortured her over a two-month period. Her 12 assailants have confessed to having imprisoned and raped her, and of threatening her with death, according to her lawyers. "But for many, she remains the main culprit," said Laila. — AFP

As the Il-20 was landing near Latakia, one of the F-16 planes "began maneuvers" at 1859 GMT "getting closer to the Il-20", which was interpreted as a repeat attack by the Syrian air defence and resulted in it being shot down, he said. "Monitoring the Il-20, the Israeli fighters used it as cover from the anti-aircraft missiles" and continued to patrol the area long after the Russian plane was shot down, he said.

The Israeli pilots' actions "either speak of their unprofessionalism or criminal negligence at the very least," Konashenkov said, reiterating the Israeli air force was fully responsible for the downing of the plane. The "adventurism" of the Israeli military could have endangered civilian planes which use the same airspace to land at the nearby Hmeimim aerodrome, the officer said. "This is a very ungrateful response to everything Russia has done for Israel".

Israel's military said in a statement its jets "did not hide behind any aircraft and that the Israeli aircraft were in Israeli airspace at the time of the downing of the Russian plane". It again offered condolences to Russia. Israel says it was targeting a Syrian military facility where weapons manufacturing systems were "about to be transferred on behalf of Iran" to Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah. It has pledged to stop Iran, its main enemy, from entrenching itself militarily in the neighboring country and has carried out dozens of attacks on Iranian targets there. Iranian-backed Hezbollah is also an enemy of Israel, which has carried out strikes in Syria to stop what it says are advanced arms deliveries to the Shiite group. — AFP

## Kuwait condemns deadly Ahvaz attack...

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I think the Iranian people have had enough," said Nikki Haley. London-based opposition channel Iran International TV aired an interview Saturday with Yaqoub Hor Altostari, presented as a spokesman for ADPF, indirectly claiming responsibility for the attack and calling it "resistance against legitimate targets".

But in a statement on its website, the group denied any involvement, accusing Iranian authorities of ordering the attack to distract from Tehran's support for "militias in the region". Iran summoned diplomats from Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain to complain about them "hosting some members of the terrorist group" and "double standards in fighting terrorism," the foreign ministry said.

The British charge d'affaires "was told that it is not acceptable that the spokesman for the mercenary Al-Ahwazi group be allowed to claim responsibility for this terrorist act through a London-based TV network," said ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi. Britain said its diplomat had extended the country's condolences to Tehran and that Iranian officials were planning to lodge a formal complaint with the United Kingdom's media watchdog, Ofcom.

Ghasemi also said Iran expected the Danish and Dutch governments to "hand over the perpetrators of this attack and anyone related to them to Iran for a fair trial". Denmark said there would be consequences if any such links were established, while the Netherlands said it had heard the Iranian version of events and offered its condolences.

Iran also warned the United Arab Emirates over "offensive remarks" attributed to a UAE "political adviser" following the attack. Oman, Kuwait and Qatar issued condemnations of the attack, while Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain had yet to react yesterday. The Emirati charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign ministry over the advisor's "blatant support" for Saturday's attack, said Ghasemi. "The summoning was over offensive remarks of a (UAE) political advisor," he said in a statement. "The charge d'affaires was warned that blatant support of terrorist acts by those linked to Emirati