

Business

# Russia: Oil production cuts 'in interests' of energy markets

## OPEC+ cartel cuts to top one million bpd

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said Monday oil output cuts by Russia, Saudi Arabia and other major producers that have caused prices to soar are "in the interests" of global markets. The surprise move on Sunday came as oil prices have cooled in recent months after soaring last year following the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

"It is in the interests of global energy markets for world oil prices to remain at a good level," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "Whether other countries are happy with this or not is their business," he added. The decision could anger the United States, which had already criticized the OPEC+ oil cartel, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, over a previous cut in production last year. Cuts by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Algeria and Oman from May to the end of the year will top one million barrels per day—the biggest reduction since the OPEC+ cartel slashed two million barrels per day in October.

Russia said it would extend until the end of the year its own voluntary pro-

duction cut of 500,000 barrels per day, a measure seen by experts as a way of making prices go up and counteracting the effect of international sanctions.

Russia's deputy prime minister in charge of energy, Alexander Novak, said the measure was justified by the "high volatility" and "uncertainty" on the oil market. "The predictability of the global oil market is a key element to ensure energy security," he said in a statement.

The reductions, on top of a Russian decision to extend a cut of 500,000 barrels per day, and despite US calls to increase production, risk stoking inflation and pressure to raise interest rates. Russia, a leading member of the OPEC+ cartel, said it was also extending an existing cut of 500,000 bpd to the end of this year, describing it as "a responsible and preventive action".

Oil prices soared almost six percent in Asian trade on Monday morning with West Texas Intermediate jumping by 5.74 percent to \$80.01 a barrel and Brent climbing 5.67 percent to \$84.42.

A Saudi energy ministry official "em-

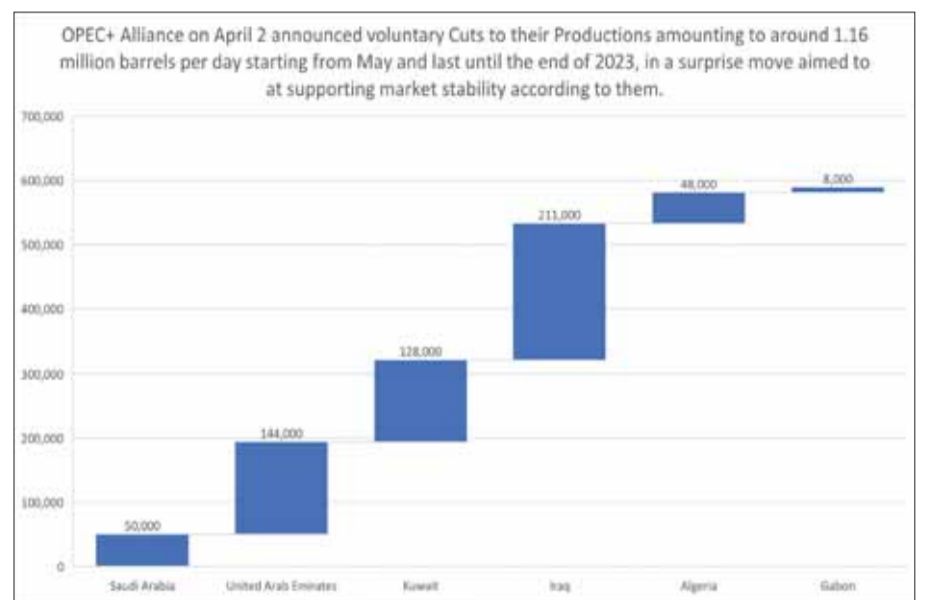
phasized that this is a precautionary measure aimed at supporting the stability of the oil market", the official Saudi Press Agency said. The cuts follow a drop in oil prices triggered by jitters over the banking sector, following the collapse of US lender SVB and UBS's hurried buy-out of troubled rival Credit Suisse, UAE-based oil expert Ibrahim Al-Ghitani told AFP.

Brent crude oil prices, trading just below \$80 a barrel late last week, should bounce to above \$80 as a result of the reductions, he said, calling prices below \$80 "unacceptable" for OPEC+.

"The producing countries adhere to a balancing level that supports their large financial budget this year, and their next economic plans," Al-Ghitani said.

The reductions follow a controversial decision in October by OPEC and its allies including Russia—collectively known as OPEC+ -- to slash production by two million barrels per day.

That cut, the biggest since the height of the COVID pandemic in 2020, also came despite concerns it would fuel further inflation and push central banks to



hike interest rates. OPEC raised its 2023 world oil demand forecast in February, saying it expected demand to grow by 2.3 million barrels per day to an average of 101.87 million barrels per day this year.

But "initial expectations of higher demand in the second half are now challenged by the prospects of continued high inflation and recessionary pressures", said Gulf analyst Yesar Al-Maleki. —AFP

## Gulf Bank alleviates debt distress during the holy month

KUWAIT: As part of its continuous efforts to consolidate the principles of social sustainability, and as part of its various charitable initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank announced its participation in the "Charity Begins at Home" campaign for the second consecutive year, organized by the local organization, Altakaful. The campaign aims to alleviate debt distress from debtors who are defaulted on their debts due to their economic circumstances.

On this occasion, the Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, Fahad Al-Sharrah said, "We are keen to consolidate Gulf Bank's leadership in social sustainability, as we strive

to achieve sustainability across all levels – socially, environmentally and economically – through a variety of programs that reflect the Bank's strategy and align with Kuwait's humanitarian goals."

Al-Sharrah mentioned that helping debtors reduces the distress of many families, especially those without breadwinners or children. The campaign is particularly noteworthy during Ramadan, as it is a month that exemplifies spiritual and human values. Gulf Bank was keen to support and relieve the distress of these families, and to help reunify debtors with their families and society, in addition to preserving the cohesion of the family unit.

Al-Sharrah added that this initiative is part of the various charitable initiatives launched by Gulf Bank during Ramadan to support the needy and their families, who face difficult circumstances. Other initiatives include distributing Ramadan food baskets "Majlat Ramadan" to needy families, in addition to other ongoing charitable initiatives throughout the month.

He indicated that for more than 60 years, Gulf

Bank has been an integral part of Kuwait's economic and social history. Gulf Bank has always been keen to participate in community events, seizing every opportunity to support the needy in society, knowing full well the impact that these efforts have on local families. Al-Sharrah also stated that Gulf Bank continues its strong commitment to sustainability programs – at community, economic and environmental levels – through many initiatives that are strategically selected to benefit the Bank and society. This falls in line with the Bank's 2025 strategy, and with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Kuwait Vision 2035.

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking



transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience. Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.



شركة الصفاة للاستثمار  
AL SAFAT INVESTMENT COMPANY

## KUWAIT BOURSA WEEKLY REPORT

WEEK ENDED ON 30 MARCH 2023

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Market	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Premier Market	33,686	7,821.74	0.1%	-3.1%	-1.6%	355,237,487	152,094,403	28,323	16.6	1.1	78.7%
Main Market	9,136	5,500.78	-0.5%	-0.9%	-1.2%	116,547,561	15,607,327	7,533	12.8	0.7	21.3%
All Share	42,821	7,050.76	0.0%	-2.7%	-1.6%	471,785,048	167,701,731	35,856	13.5	0.8	100%

Sector	M. Cap (KD ml)	Last Close	WTD %	MTD %	YTD %	Quantity Traded	Value Traded	No. of Trades	P/E	P/B	% of Total M. Cap
Banking	26,196	1,752.85	0.1%	-3.2%	-0.5%	169,174,724	101,163,063	14,030	22.8	1.3	61.18%
Basic Materials	484	857.16	2.7%	1.5%	0.1%	2,513,251	1,667,708	719	7.9	1.3	1.13%
Consumer Discretionary	980	1,461.98	-0.2%	0.4%	2.8%	17,634,889	4,311,243	1,786	13.4	0.9	2.29%
Consumer Staples	136	445.28	-3.4%	-7.0%	-5.5%	5,019,981	1,833,659	328	NM	0.9	0.32%
Energy	209	997.89	0.3%	-2.0%	-15.3%	703,708	44,381	82	10.8	0.6	0.49%
Financial Services	4,341	1,195.97	0.2%	-3.2%	-3.3%	161,886,418	18,943,949	7,137	12.0	0.7	10.14%
Health Care	226	455.49	0.0%	-1.0%	-1.4%	211	99	2	11.8	2.5	0.53%
Industrials	3,468	986.94	0.6%	-0.4%	-5.7%	33,049,637	20,766,890	5,201	14.3	0.8	8.10%
Insurance	784	1,909.97	0.9%	17.4%	23.0%	767,578	333,675	204	10.4	0.8	1.83%
Real Estate	2,322	1,080.19	-0.9%	-5.4%	-9.2%	61,595,717	8,696,846	3,422	13.9	0.5	5.42%
Technology	9	635.83	-5.0%	-6.1%	-13.5%	61,740	5,399	3	NM	0.8	0.02%
Telecommunications	3,473	1,132.26	-1.5%	-3.3%	-3.1%	17,708,134	9,643,909	2,727	12.8	1.9	8.11%
Utilities	195	465.79	0.6%	-2.7%	-3.8%	1,669,060	290,911	215	13.5	1.7	0.45%

Top Gainers

Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
MRC	71	16.58%	418,234	28,514	40
MARAKEZ	58	10.58%	9,990	560	18
JIYAD	16	9.66%	10,717,572	161,535	364
ARABREC	32	8.03%	9,491,408	294,998	270
MANAZEL	19	7.78%	3,076,380	57,812	177

Top Losers

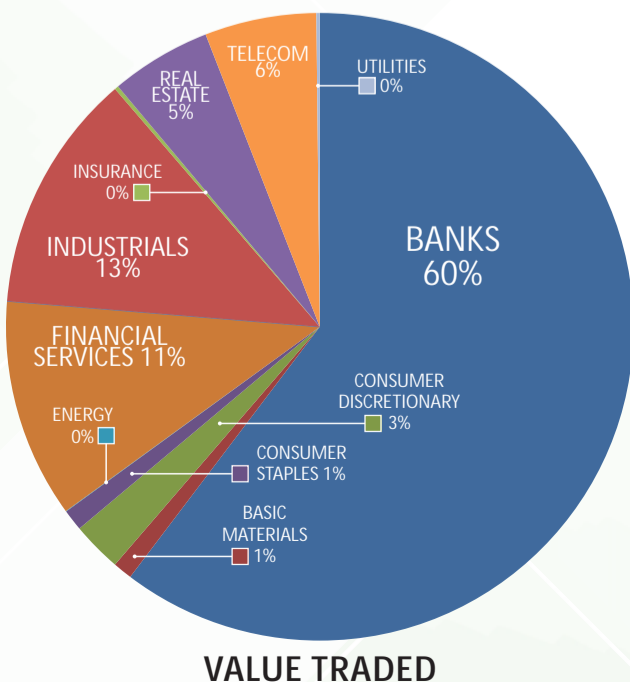
Stock	Last Close	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
TAHSSILAT	16.6	-22.79%	371,446	6,225	62
AMAR	50	-21.35%	164,312	9,312	7
ALMANAR	50	-16.61%	38,152	1,964	15
OOREDOO	1,010	-9.58%	68,812	72,309	90
UPAC	181	-9.50%	8,951	1,650	14

Top Volume

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
BOUBYAN	643	-1.23%	59,139,466	37,572,366	5,017
KPROJ	123	2.50%	50,724,834	6,211,182	1,146
KFH	826	0.24%	39,254,586	32,399,724	3,775
GFH	77	3.23%	25,488,112	1,924,454	710
NBK	1,006	-0.38%	18,248,432	18,316,419	2,869

Top Value

Stock	Last	Change %	Volume	Value	Trades
BOUBYAN	643	-1.23%	59,139,466	37,572,366	5,017
KFH	826	0.24%	39,254,586	32,399,724	3,775
NBK	1,006	-0.38%	18,248,432	18,316,419	2,869
AGLTY	621	1.31%	17,426,642	10,731,492	1,953
ZAIN	540	0.00%	14,645,792	7,895,142	2,081



### Market Summary:

- Premier market volume and value dropped 19% and 13%, while Main Market volume and value dropped 21% and 20%, respectively.
- Premier and Main indexes both are facing resistance that only can be overcome by high trading volume.
- Technically, the All Share index closed at 7050, with support levels at 7041, 7000, and 6981, while resistance at 7105. The Premier index closed at 7821, with support levels at 7784, and 7701, while resistance at 7828. The Main index closed at 5500, with support levels at 5495, 5467, and 5424, while resistance at 5526.